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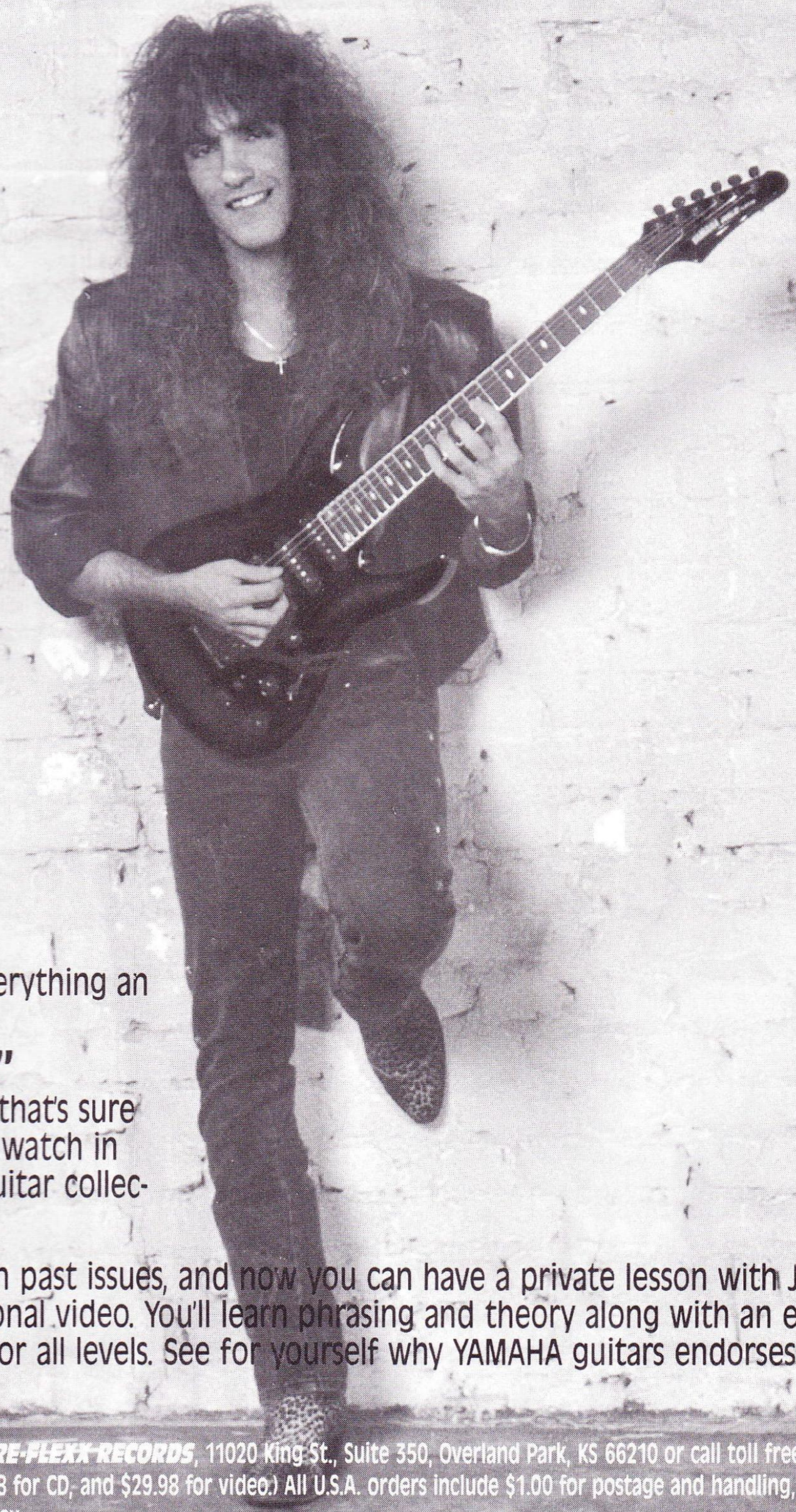

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HEAVEN'S METAL

Issue Number 27
December/January

On August 1st, subscriber Matthew Valentine went on to be with the Lord when he died in an automobile accident. This issue is dedicated to the memory of his life on this earth and the joy that his life in God's presence brings to both him and his Lord.

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Heaven's Metal is a bi-monthly magazine that covers the genre of Christian heavy metal. This genre exists because Jesus Christ purchased our way out of eternal separation from the Living God. By His grace and for His glory this genre moves ahead, forcing back the gates of hell--to the breaking point!

Special thanks this issue to: Russell Smith for his caring help with printing, etc (thanks for the Waxer!); Grassroots Marketing for the quality printing; Kathy Ervin and the CCM Staff; Joe Potter (for the new logo!), Ed McTaggert and the Frontline/Intense Records staff for the cooperation and the great artwork on the cover; Nelson Myers, John Wilson, Joey Knight, Steven White, and I.B. Willis for all the great reviews and fellowship; Lauren Holmans for the fantastic artwork; Ruby, Roy, Randy, and Larry for the stuffing; Steve Schmutzer for going to bat again for the third time in a row (you're a good writer bro...Can you sing as good as you write?); Star Song for the warm hospitality; Mom & Dad (I can't thank you enough!); Kirk Crippens for the photos;Kevin Allison and Groundfloor; Paul Q-Pek; and you, the Heaven's Metal reader, the audience--thanks for supporting the magazine.

There are a few **Back Issues** of HM available. They are: #18 (Illinois Noize); #19 (Shout); #20 (Sacred Warrior); #21 (the rare Rage Of Angels issue); #22 (Bloodgood); #23 (Vengeance); #24 (Holy Soldier); #25 (Whitecross); and #26 (Magdallan). All others are sold out. Each copy is $2.95 (Foreign orders add $3 Air Mail postage).

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The original one-sided "econo" models are still available in limited quantities. They come in red, yellow, blue, and black 50/50 shirts. These shirts are still $10 each. All t-shirts are available in M, L, & XL.

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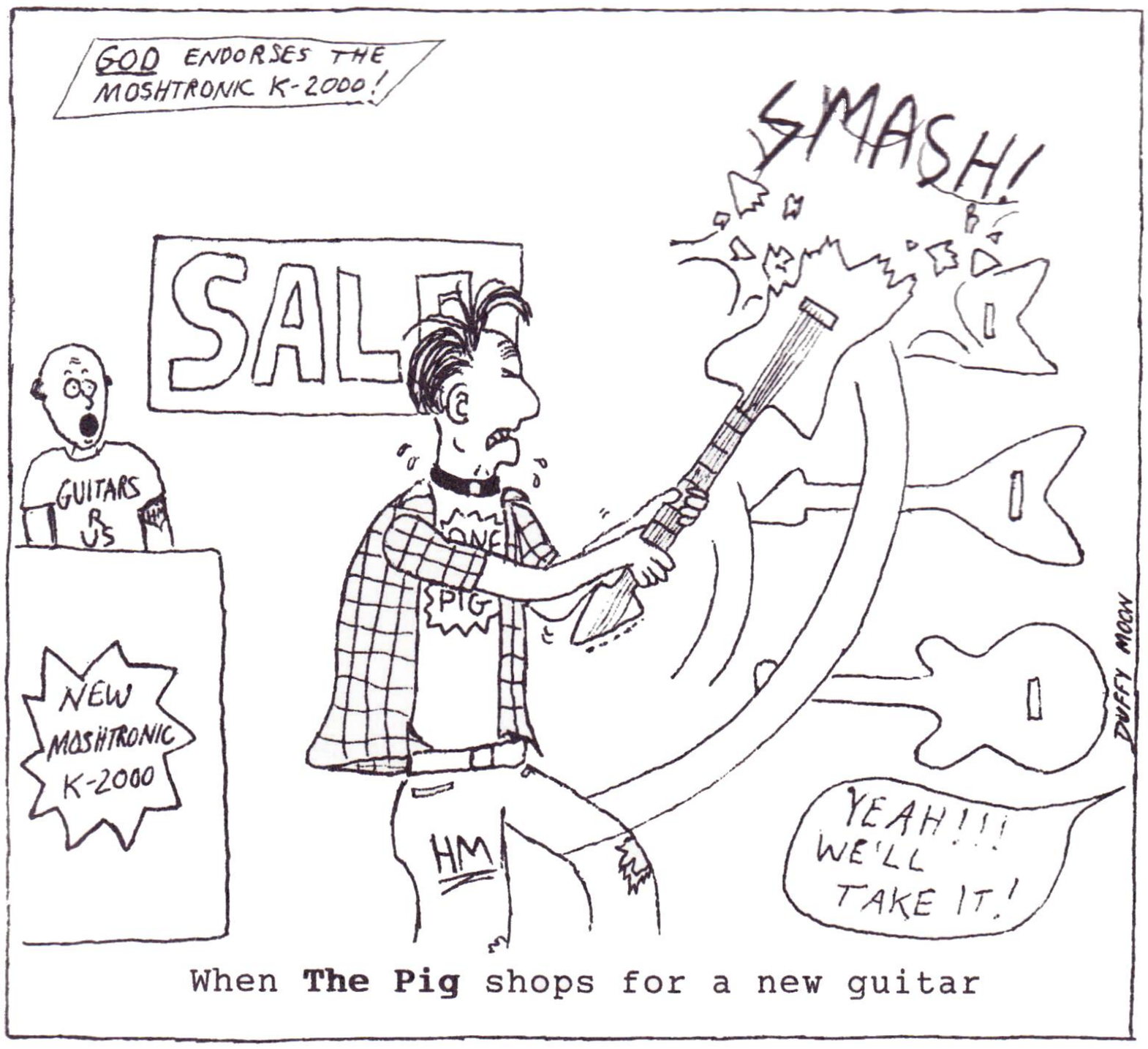

When **The Pig** shops for a new guitar

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DELIVERANCE - DARING TO DELIVER

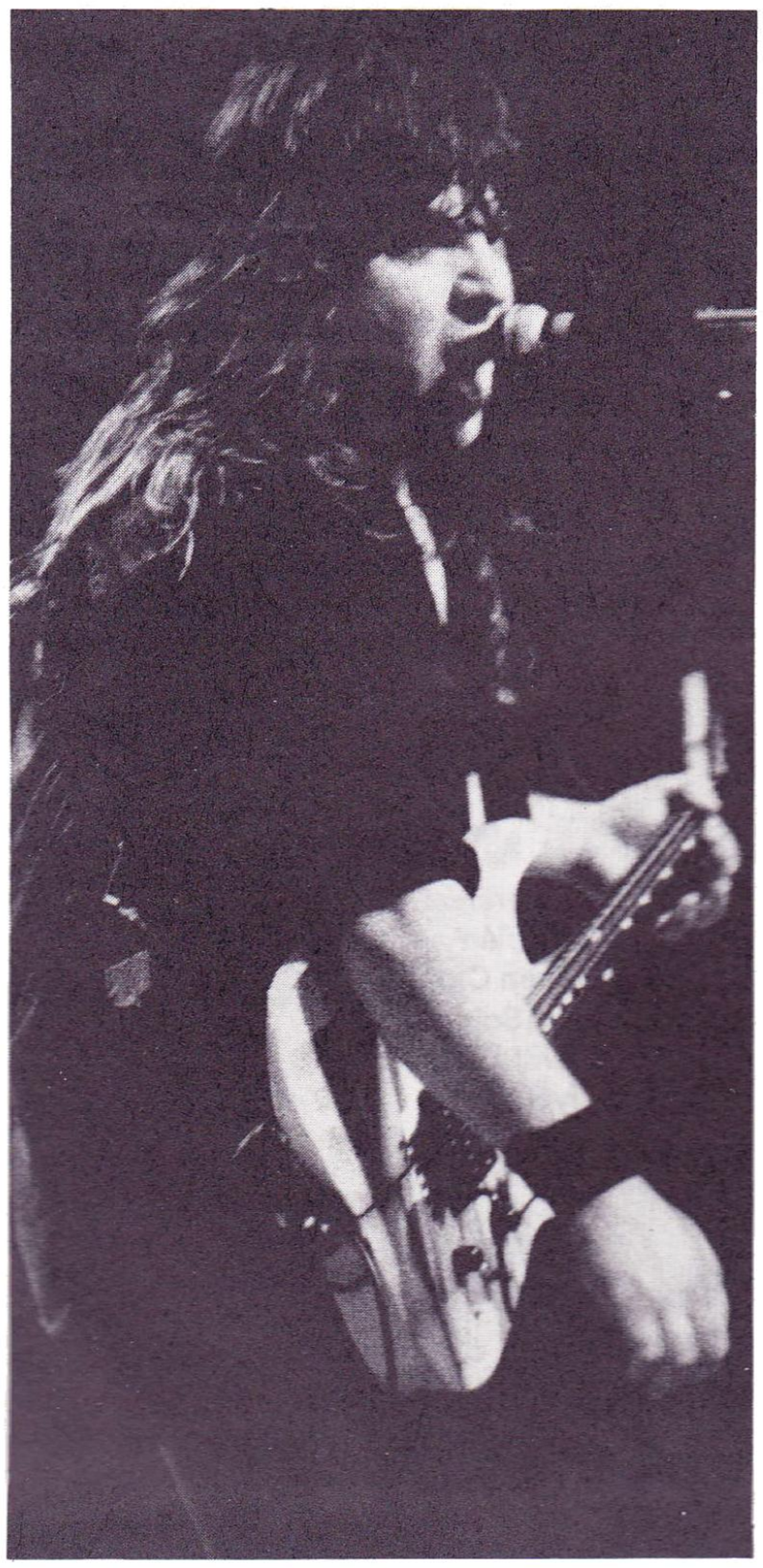
By Steve Schmutzer

Spending some genuine moments with Jimmy Brown II and George Ochoa of DELIVERANCE was a refreshingly stimulating experience. Noted for its blazing riffs, breakneck speed, and crunching rhythms, the band, however, has individual members that take pleasure in quiet talk, personal testimony, and exchange of thoughtful discourse.

"I want to make it very clear," states Jimmy Brown II, lead vocalist and rhythm guitarist of Deliverance, "we are not a thrash metal band." (I don't know whether to smile, laugh, or choke on this one) Jimmy continues, "We're a speed metal band; that's different." Not to be regarded as too ignorant, I readily agree with him. "There are bands out there that are unquestionably of a thrash genre," echoes George Ochoa, lead guitarist and a recent warrior to the ranks of Deliverance. "When you study what they're doing, and what we're doing, you see that there's quite a difference." (I decide to choke.)

After debuting on the original "California Metal" album on Regency Records in 1987 with two popular cuts, Deliverance made short work of commanding the attention of Intense Records and slamming their first full-length production into the hearts of thrash, ...uh, speed metal fans everywhere. Their penchant for a well-delivered, emphatic, and very fast brand of metal has been coupled well with a desire to place ministry over money; God over gain, and service over self. They have, as a band, been touted widely among such peers as Bloodgood and Vengeance Rising, and among such leaders as Bob Beeman, pastor in Sanctuary in California. Now, with their newest album out, and an establishing audience, Deliverance is eager to continue its destiny. "'Weapons Of Our Warfare' is our most recent album," explains George, "and it's taken directly from II Corinthians 10:4." Jimmy further elaborates, "'Weapons Of Our Warfare' is a semi-concept album. Definitely its focus is spiritual warfare, but it tries to move the focus in upon our own individual fight in the Spirit. We know that kids who are fans of this kind of music will explore the lyrics, and our words are really to the point. We know that there's power through God's Word, and as we present that to these kids, we are excited to know that lives can be changed."

Jimmy & Brian moonlighting as Sumo wrestlers (Photo by Donna Palmisciano)



George Ochoa (Photo by Kirk J. Crippens 777)

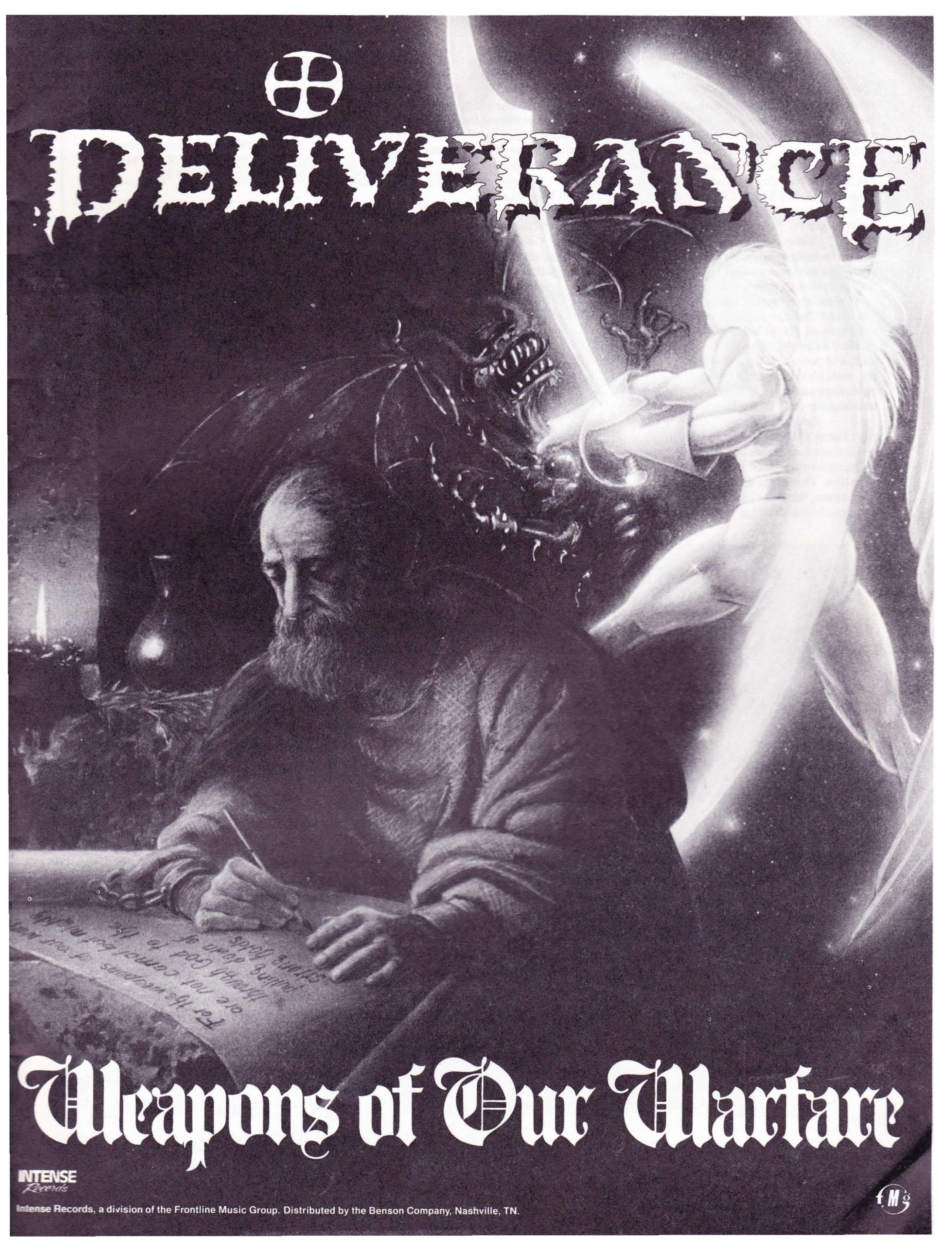
Musically, "Weapons..." improves upon the efforts of the first album. Jimmy clarifies, "The first album was a good album; we liked it. It had good guitars, but the drum sound really lacked and the speed was really too slow. Kids love it though, and I guess that counts most. This new album has a better mix and a better sound. It shows more of what Deliverance is all about, and we're pleased with the results."

As Deliverance readies itself for its next tour, a new lineup will comprise the band. It will consist of Jimmy Brown II on lead vocals and rhythm guitar, Brian Khairullah on bass, George Ochoa on lead guitar, and newest member John Gonzales on drums. "We're really pleased with the current Deliverance lineup," explains Jimmy; "it's working out very well. Chris Hyde, our ex-drummer, said that he wanted everyone to know that he 'moved onto other things,' and Glenn Rogers, our ex-lead guitarist, wanted it stated that he simply had a 'conflict of interest.'"

Such clarifications aside, Jimmy and George talk of their experiences on the road. "Man, we covered 21 states on our recent tour," explains Jimmy. "We saw the reality of ministry, where the proverbial 'rubber meets the road.' More than anything, we saw just how much God really desires to use Christians in general. There's so much potential out there in the body of Christ. We had the privilege of engaging in some joint efforts with churches, and we saw God perform some amazing works. It was encouraging to us as much as anybody, and we're ready to do it again." Fans of Deliverance will be given fresh fare as the "Weapons" tour hits the road in full force during March/April of '91. The boys promise to "deliver their goods as it's never before been dealt."

Probing Jimmy and George lays bare some personal facts. "It was a real gratification for me to finally get an album done," muses Jimmy. "We had played for

DELIVERANCE



Weapons of Our Warfare

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audiences for four years. It's good to know that labor was not in vain. Now it's two albums; I'm excited to see where God desires to use us." George adds his thoughts, "Getting into the band in the first place was really special for me; I'd bounced around a bit from project to project. It's good to be rooted in this band. But, no amount of pleasure in belonging can compare with the joy I feel in actively and personally leading kids to Christ. It's the ultimate! It's why we do what we do; there's no other reason."

Jimmy continues, "That's all true, and yet those facts aside, it's very difficult to accept the mediocrity we see in Christian circles. It doesn't matter if we're talking record companies or promoters, fans or the bands, this whole Christian complacency thing is hurting us all. We as believers are sadly satisfied with substandard levels of ministry, walk, and performance. I have one thing to say, man, it's not right, it's not Biblical, and we're displeasing to a holy and righteous God who requires our best for Him."

George agrees, "It's not hard to see what Jimmy's talking about. We as Christians need to raise our standards. Musically speaking for example, it's Deliverance vs. Metallica. That might seem like an unfair comparison, but those levels of performance and expectation should in every reasonable way be ours too. It's a calling to all of us as followers of Christ to set the standards and not to follow them."

The time winds down. Intense words from an intense band, no puns intended. I challenge Jimmy and George to finish some sentences for me as they are presented. Their individual responses follow:

Sentence #1: "Two years from now, I'd want Deliverance to..."

Jimmy: "...be in God's will."

George: "...be given a fair chance in the secular realm, and be given a chance to do it through the sole work of God."

George: "...be raptured."

Sentence #2: "The greatest musical demand on a band like Deliverance is..."

Jimmy: "...from the fans that we don't wimp out."

George: "Ditto, man."

Jimmy closes with his parting thoughts, "God's really been so good to us as a band. There have been good times and there have been bad times, but if I had a chance to do it all over, I'd do it again, the very same way, day by day learning and growing. It's the process that makes us what God wants us to become."

"Ditto, man," I think. HM

Charlie Brown's brother--Jimmy II (Photo by Donna Palmisciano)

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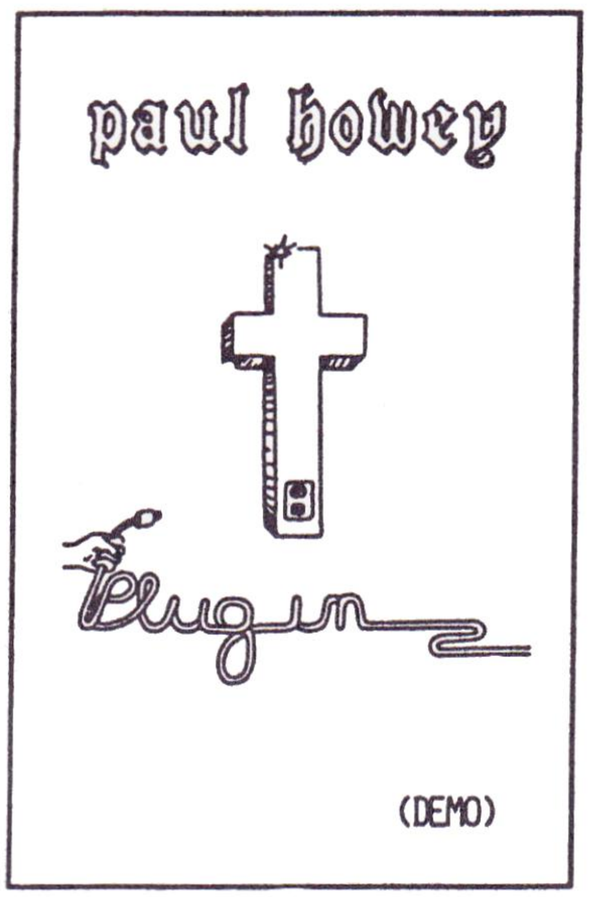

"Now that's talent!! The production is great and the vocals are really superb. The songwriting is creative and intelligent."
Keith Day
GOSPEL METAL
Magazine

"the tunes...rock out with conviction and intensity. Very enjoyable, well written, and produced--worth purchasing."
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"...this is good stuff... creative and energetic. The lyrics have a clear message of hope and to tell you the truth, the clarity of the vocals was refreshing. The entire project was well done, right down to the production."
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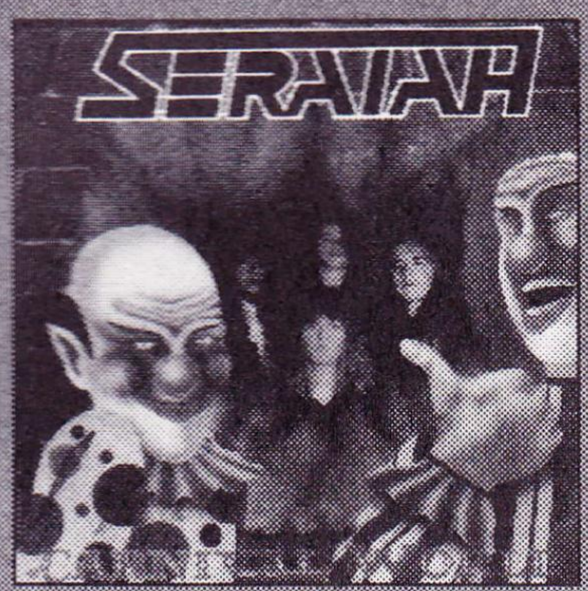
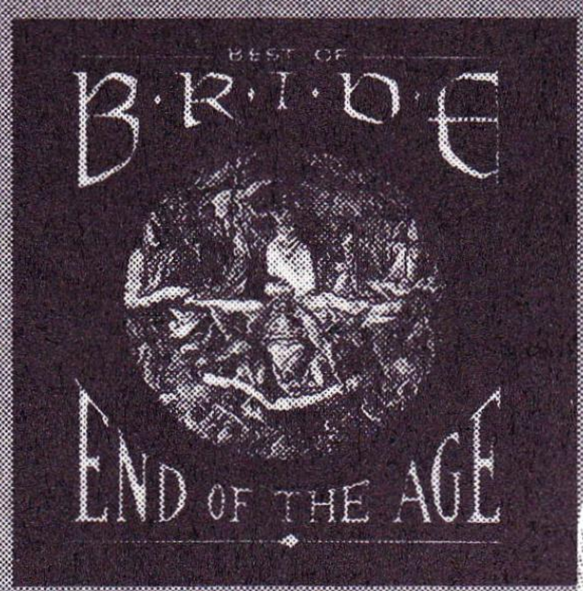


SERAIAH, CARNIVAL WORLD
Young guns with more riffs than Judas Bad Priest's.



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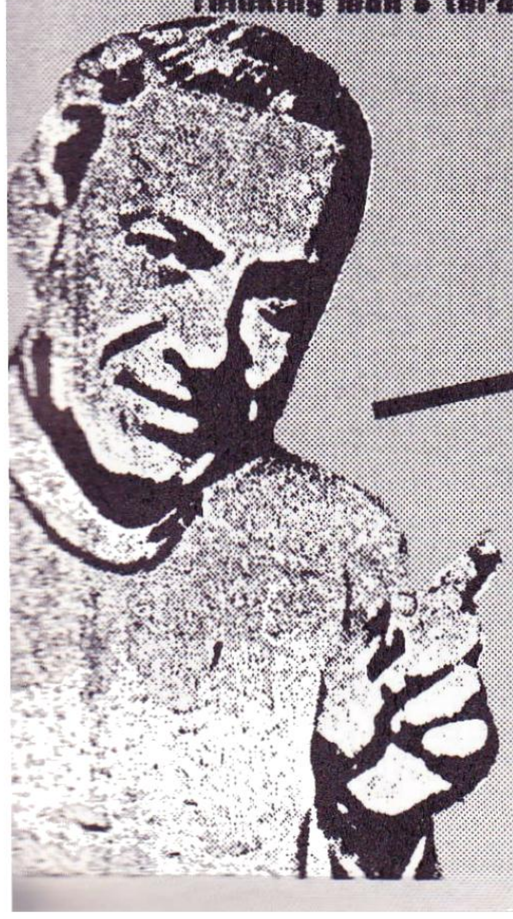

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GUARDIAN'S FIRE AND LOVE

By Doug Van Pelt

**Give us an update of Guardian's recent history and future plans.

"We're currently in the studio finishing up a new album, called 'Fire And Love,'" reports bassist David Bach. "We just signed with Pakaderm. We enlisted Jamie Rowe, who used to be known as J.R. Rowe of Tempest, about two weeks before we went into the studio. We told him we thought that J.R. sounded too much like a truck driver. We're going to be starting our tour October 26th in Idaho. Our album will be released in the Fall."

**How did you audition singers?

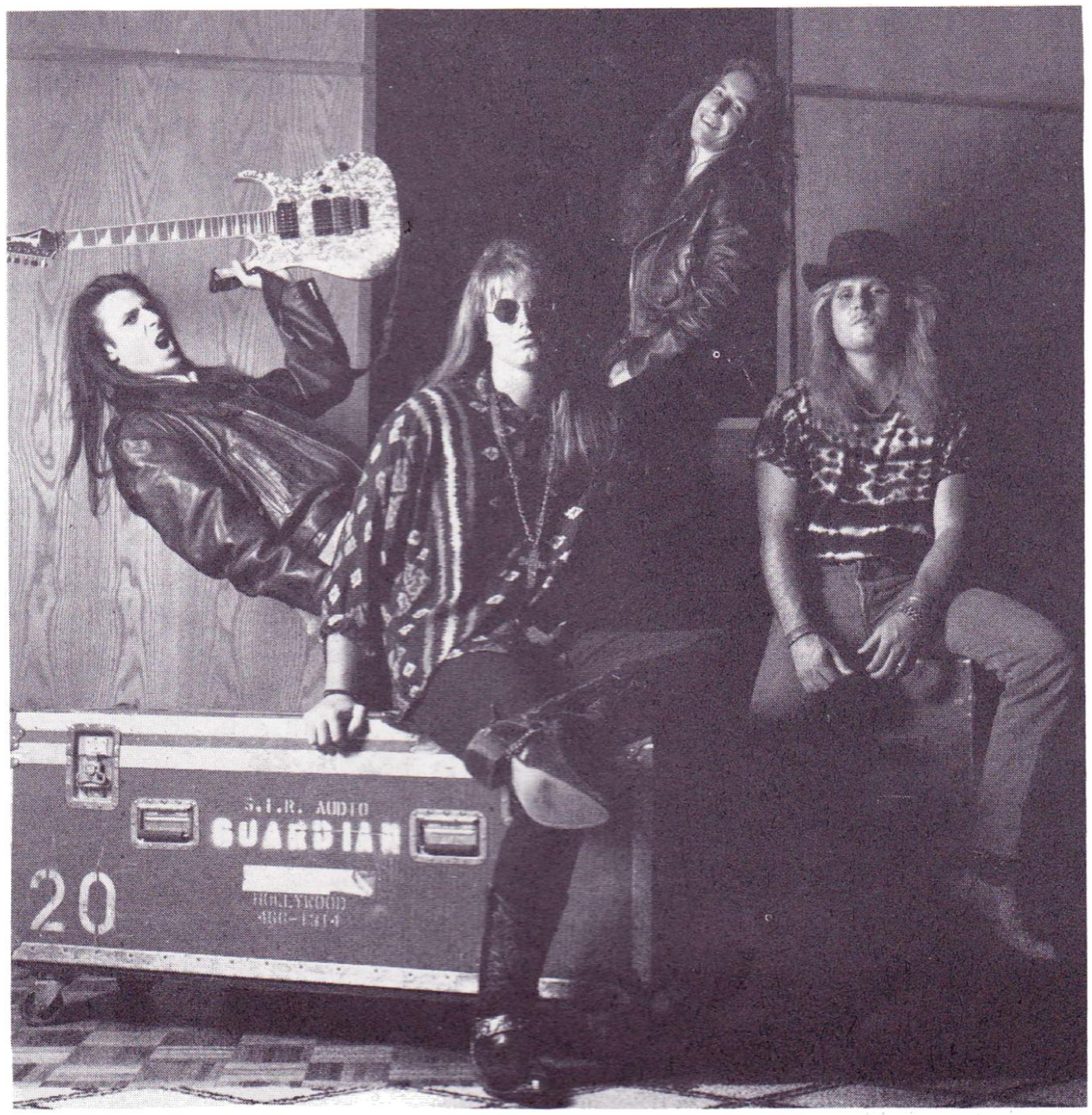
"I was down at the office of Pakaderm," explains David, "and was going through the slew of tapes that they had. I went through about 50 or 60 tapes, and couldn't really find anyone. I found one guy, who lived in Seattle, and called him up a couple of times and left a few messages. He never called back. Anyway, now he's in Holy Soldier.

"I was doing the guitar stuff for Mastedon," explains guitarist Tony Palacios, who has done lots of session work for the Elefantes, "and John was auditioning singers to sing a couple of the songs for Mastedon. What he would do is use the Mastedon songs as an audition for Mastedon and Guardian. A couple of guys were okay, but they just didn't really fit.

"How we got Jamie was kind of a long story. About three years ago he called me up as a Guardian fan. I think he got my phone number from Jeff McCormick of The Pendragon. He called me up and said, 'Please don't hang up! I'm a fan.' So we started to rap and become good friends. He sent me a couple of Tempest tapes and I sent him an autographed picture and all this kind of stuff. He called me up about once every two weeks or so. One time I returned his call and got his father. I talked to his father. About a week later Jamie called me back and sounded really bummed. His dad just died. I said, 'No way! I just talked to him a couple of days ago!' He had a heart attack the next day and died. It blew Jamie away, and he started crying and everything. My mom died when I was young, so I wrote this letter encouraging him. So, we became real good friends. We lost touch for awhile, because both of us were on the road."

"I was getting a lot of calls when we got back," continues David, "and I got a call from Jamie. He said, 'I heard you guys were looking for a new singer! Can I send you a tape?' and I was like, 'Yi-yi-yi!' because I had heard all the Tempest stuff. I said, 'Okay, what do ya have?'

"'Well, I have this ballad type thing.' I said, 'Why don't you go into a studio and set up a mike and put some reverb and sing some Blues stuff...just some growly stuff,' and he said, 'Alright!' It was funny, because a couple people called and said, 'I don't really have anything new.' So I told 'em, 'Just go into a studio and just sing. No music, just go 'ooohh yeah!" and nobody would do it! They were all afraid to do it. Jamie was just like, 'Okay!'



NOW (L to R: Tony Palacios; Jamie Rowe; Karl Ney; David Bach)

"He sent me his stuff Express Mail and it was sitting at the Post Office. I waited about four days before I picked it up, because I just knew it was gonna be horrible. My wife said, 'You better go pick this up,' so I picked it up on the way to Pakaderm, and I popped it in and it blew my mind. He'd gotten so much better and he had such soul and everything. I played it for the guys and they were pretty blown too."

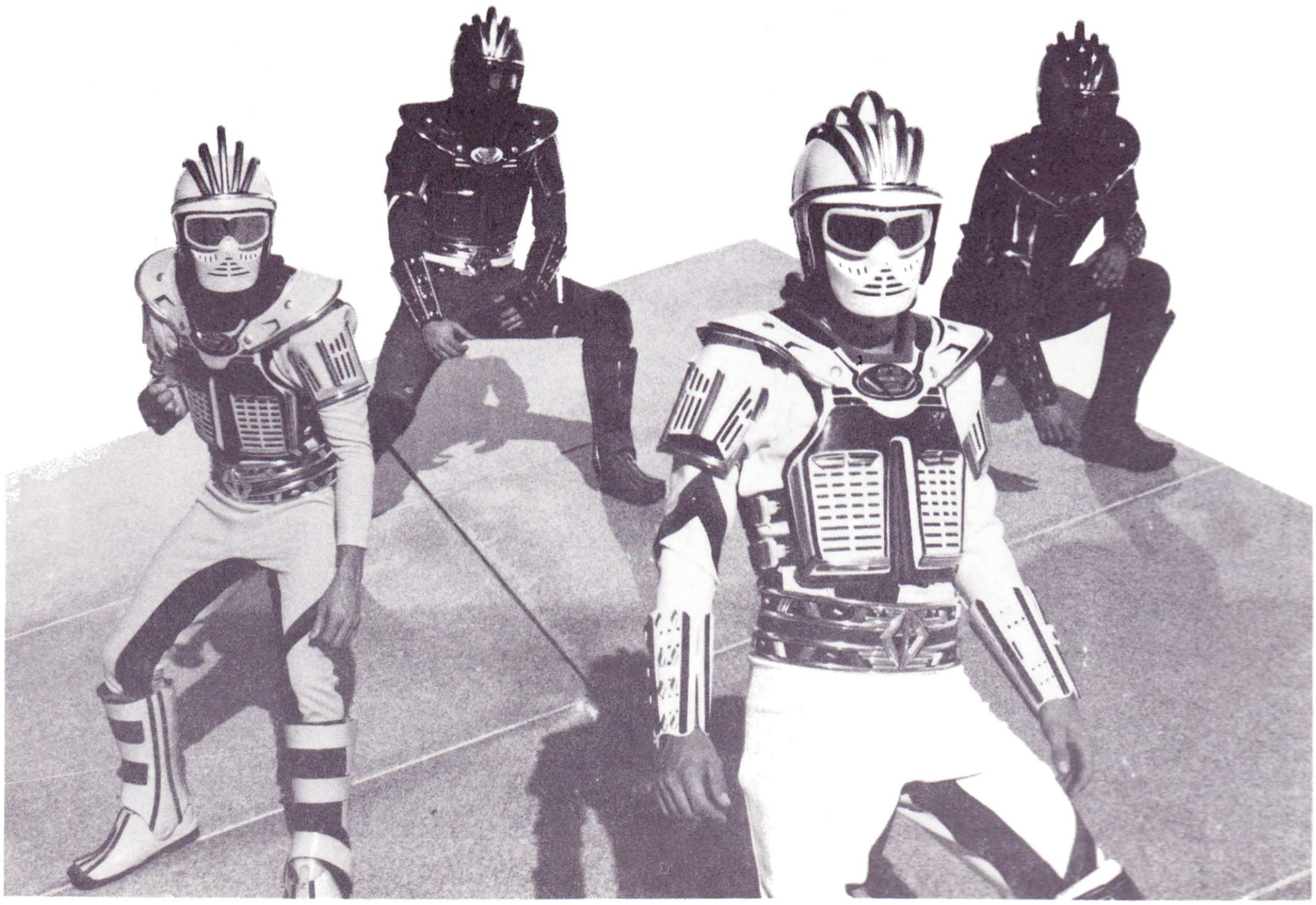
"Our new manager heard it and said, 'Let's try this guy out and see how he does.' It's kind of cool, because everyone thinks Tempest stinks, and everyone thinks Jamie is a horrible singer."

"When we heard the tape," says Tony, "we could tell he had great timing. He had great growl and Blues inflections, and he just had a good tone to his voice. We knew that, with the right tunes and melodies, that he would do well. Dino kind of liked it, but John was real worried. Joel, our road manager, was real worried, and everybody else just said, 'Forget it...' But Dave and I knew he was our guy. He came in and cranked. John basically said that he's probably the best singer that's come into Pakaderm in a long time. It's funny, because on the Tempest record you don't really hear it."

"People are gonna be surprised," predicts David.

**You guys are on Pakaderm, and you used to be on Enigma. What's the deal? I thought every Christian metal band's dream was to be on a secular record label, so they could reach the lost.

"I think that's what it is," explains David, "is a dream. For us the dream died hard. Everybody thinks that there band is gonna make it big and the world is just gonna adore them for preaching the Gospel, that the world will go, 'Where have you been? You guys are great!' For every great Christian band that's good, though; there's another band that's just as good, that's singing about sex, and all the things the world wants to hear. The temptation to cross over is always very great, but the world in general doesn't want to hear about Jesus. The world is not looking for Christ. "There's a whole lot of hype that goes on, and everything is made to look more glamorous than it really is. You have to have a



THEN (Guardian's first incarnation as "FUSION")

sense of reality. The most awesome advertising for reality is seeing these guys driving down the highway and pulling a trailer. Reality is a real heavy thing that people have to think about. That whole secular thing to me is a dream, and it dies hard. I think every band should check their motives and find out if it's God telling 'em or themselves telling 'em. Who's really directing 'em?

"We were in a position where there was a lot of compromise. We realized that we had been compromising certain things, even though we felt like, 'This is okay, because as long we maintain our walk, everything's fine.' We had to check ourselves and see what God was telling us, and not what we were telling ourselves. We had plans for next time out to use cleverly-devised lyrics and stuff. Tony and I were talking one night and God just womped us."

"We saw a lot of stuff going on around us," says Tony. "We sold some records. We did alright for Enigma, but we were kind of in limbo on that. The Christian market didn't know how to handle us, because we were like a secular band with a positive message, and Capitol didn't really know what to do with us. God really spoke to my heart and said, 'I want you to do something different. I want you to give all that up and do it My way. Whatever happens, happens.'

"We didn't know that Pakaderm would sign us. We don't know, but A&M might pick it up. They pick up most of Pakaderm's stuff. We're not trying to devise a plan. A lot of bands try to devise a plan to crossover. What we're trying to do is just do what we want to do and say what we want to say. It was a tough decision, because Enigma didn't kick us off. We asked for a release. We put a little pressure on 'em.

"I had a couple of well-known people spend a couple of hours trying to talk me out of it. They thought a Christian label was the kiss of death. 'Don't do that. That's death!' We felt God say, 'Come back to the church.' At that time we weren't signed with Pakaderm, so we had to leave Enigma without a net under us. We were praying that God would provide for us and he did."

"The whole secular (label) thing is a dream, and it dies hard."

**How did the Lord speak to you?

"What basically brought it to me," relates Tony, "was we had some radical ministry happen at the clubs--some really cool stuff happened--But, the really heavy stuff, the stuff that really counted, was at the Christian shows. The really intense stuff happened in the church, as far as dealing with people who were about to commit suicide, had some real heavy oppression, and drug and alcohol problems. We were just amazed that it's in the church, more than people think."

"What I liked about it," says David, "is that a lot of kids, even though they were non-Christians, were open enough that they were willing to come to a church. They were way more receptive (than a bar situation). They kinda knew what was going on. They didn't believe yet, but they were looking for answers and help. That was encouraging to me personally.

"That's one of the things God showed us: There were people touched at the clubs and ministry goes on, but a lot of times the crowd was like, 'Aah, we don't wanna hear this stuff.'

"A lot of friends of ours in Christian bands are complaining and trying to get on a secular label. They're trying to get out there and we've already been there. It's just a dream, like I said, that dies hard. I think it was Larry Norman who said, 'You can cross over, but you can't take the cross over.' I'm not knocking anyone who crosses over, because I believe a band like King's X is where they're supposed to be. That's where we thought we were supposed to be, but for us, God said 'No.' He has His reasons, and we know He knows best. It's hard. I still wrestle with that all the time. There is that lure of 'Yeah, we could open for Motley Crue,' but now I can just laugh at it. That's just

Guardian on the "First Watch" tour

me talking. If God wants to do it, it'll happen. Maybe God wants to break us completely and something will happen...but we're not trying to second guess Him now. It's like, 'If you want us in churches, we'll play there. If something else happens, then great. That's not gonna be our main thrust anymore.

"The reality that we'll probably sell less records and make less money and do all that is just something we've accepted. It seems like everyone wants to cross over, but we're going the opposite direction. The A&M distribution is nice, but we intentionally...for this album, if there were any lyrics that could've gone either way; we made 'em stronger instead of more obscure. We want the approval of Christians, as far as them knowing we're Christians and not playing some spiritual marketing game. We care about our credibility now more than ever."

**Do you have any stories from the road that kind of illustrate this?

"One of the heaviest things for me," says Tony, "was in this club that was nearby this biker church. After the show a group of 'em from this church kind of cornered Paul (Cawley), and they were just railing on the dude. 'We're not preaching the Gospel. Our ministry is not valid.' In the meantime, Dave and I are downstairs and two girls are standing at my side. During the show they were flashing me, and asking me if I would sleep with them and stuff. Afterwards Dave and I started talking to the girls. Dave was talking to one of them, whose mother died of cancer."

"Yeah," continues David. "She offered me one of her breasts to autograph and it kinda freaked me out. When she saw that I was different, she started sharing with me how her mom was dying of cancer, and we got into this really heavy rap. I was sharing with her how my mom died and how God had ministered to me. A good type of bonding happened, because I could relate to what she was going through, and she knew I could. Even though a lot of it was small talk, she was really open once we started talking about how my mom died and all that stuff. I could relate. That freaked her out, because I was some guy who just got off stage in a bar and we were talking about how God ministered to me. Her attitude totally changed. She went from being real flirtatious and trying to pick me up to like, 'Wow, I haven't talked to anybody who's gone through what I've gone through.' I could tell she was kind of taken back. It was probably the furthest thing from her mind. Stuff like that is what happened. I got to share with her what we're all about and why I wasn't going to sleep with her and why Tony and I weren't gonna go back to their place with 'em."

"One of her other friends," says Tony, "had just broken up and was looking to jump in the sack, and I explained to her that I was married and my wife was pregnant. Her boyfriend had broken up with her a few days ago, and I kinda used that to point to my wife. 'How would you feel if he did that to you?'

"Then I shared with this other backslidden kid who's dad was a pastor. He started telling me his woes of being a pastor's son, and I said, 'Hey! I'm a pastor's son.' This guy was backslidden and had no intention of going back. He was just there to rock and roll, and I started praying with him. He was unbelievabley shaken, and he broke down and cried. It was interesting, because while all this was going on downstairs, these people upstairs had Paul in a corner."

"Yeah," adds David, "it came down to getting bouncers just to get 'em off of him."

"That was really bad," says Tony, "but was also very interesting. They should've been down with us dealing with those people, ya know? This was their home town. Instead they were upstairs yelling at Paul."

**What kind of touring plans do you have?

"We don't wanna be a band that blows into town," says Tony, "and goes, 'Hey! We're cool, but Jesus is cooler. Rock and Roll...See ya later.' God's put it on our heart to share and be able to spend time with people, to confront drug abuse and suicide, and whatever. Not just your after-concert, sign autographs, 'How ya doing?' kind of thing."

"Tony basically almost has his pastor's degree," explains David. "We'd like to be able to take more time in a town we play in. I think youth pastors would appreciate that. We could have, like, an open forum the day before

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a show; or do something with a church on Sunday. Not just blow through town. There's got to be a lot of organization for this to happen, but we wanna show that we're not just a rock band that blows through town, says 'Jesus is cool,' and then, 'See ya later.' It's still in the planning stages. It was our new manager's idea, and we thought it was just awesome."

**What kind of lyrical direction does this new album take?

"Some of the stuff is really bold," answers Tony, "and some of it's not. Our lyrical style has never been like Petra. We kinda write how we feel."

"We don't intentionally put, 'Jesus loves you' in a song," says David, "but, like I said earlier: on this album, if there was any song where it was like, 'Gee, this could go either way,' or 'This could be about something else,' we made sure that we clarified it. We didn't consciously water down any of these songs. We wrote a great deal of songs from a personal experience. A lot of 'em are not always from the right point of view spiritually, but we made sure in every song that the point was clear. There was no watering down anything for commercial acceptance. That was talked about with some people at A&M. There was one song where, 'Gee, if maybe we did this...' and we said, 'Well, that means that we should make sure it's 'I gave My Son for you,' instead of, 'I gave My love for you.' Whereas last time, we would've said, 'Sure! It's okay. We're still Christians and we are trying to reach the unsaved,' and that whole reasoning. I'm not putting that down, but God said for us that was wrong. That was not our direction, and we always thought it was."

**Tell me about the musical direction on the new album.

"It's real Bluesy. Jamie's voice lends itself to that real well. Tony and I were talking one night about all the great 70's rock we loved. I asked him, 'Why don't we write all this stuff we like? The stuff that feels right to us?'

"He said, 'Okay Dave,' and a couple of days later he came back with tons of these great tunes."

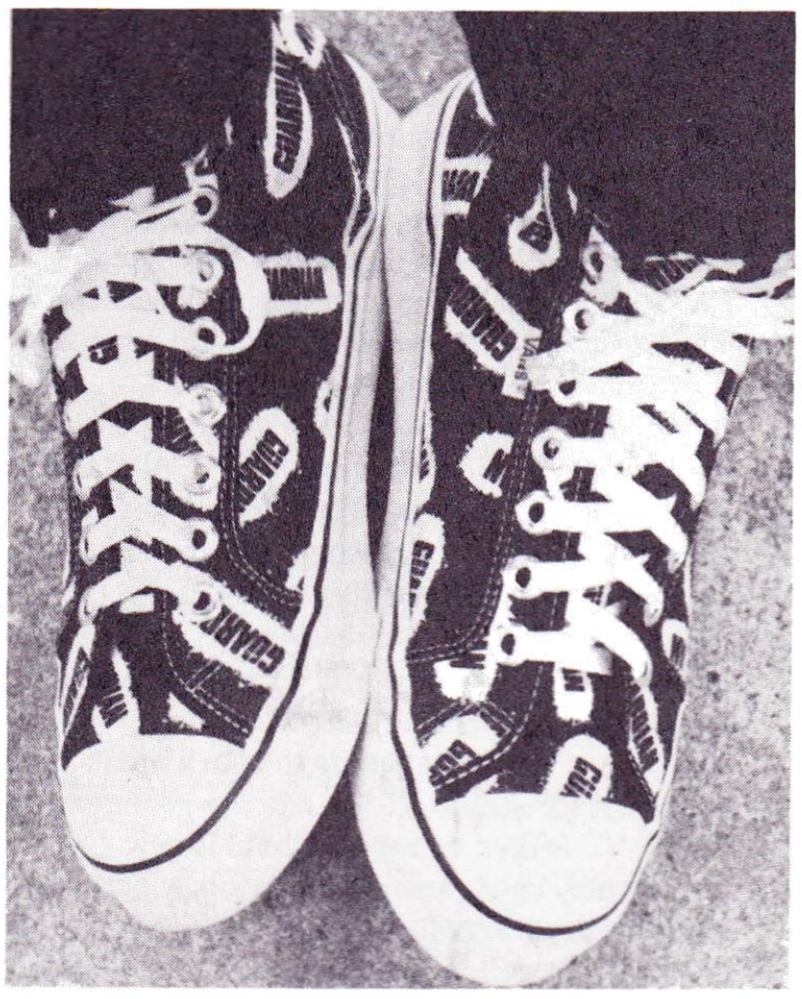
"The last record had a lot more metal to it," says Tony, "and this one doesn't really have it at all, it just rocks...but it's heavier than the last one.

"Working with John and Dino has been absolutely unbelievable. Everybody's worries about the 'Petra Connection' will be gone. I think people are gonna be surprised."

**Whatever happened to the footage you guys filmed for two different songs from "First Watch?"

"Good question," says David. "We shot footage and never saw it. We had a lot of problems like that. The record company talked about the song 'Miracle.' They wanted us to go back into the studio and change, 'The love of Christ' line to 'the love of God,' and all kinds of things like that."

It seems like Guardian was handed opportunities to compromise their calling at every turn. It's a pleasure to see them being obedient to where God has called them to, especially when it flies in the face of the current trend in Christian metal. These are determined fish swimming against the tide. **HM**



GUARDIAN

THE STATE OF INTENSITY

By Doug Van Pelt

There's been lots of rumors going around about Barren Cross. First, there was word that they would be touring without original drummer Steve Whitaker. That rumor proved to be true, when several people got to see Barren Cross live on the second leg of their "State Of Control" tour, and there was a new guy behind the drums--Dave LaVie. Next, a rumor began to circulate that Mike Lee was not touring with the band and a new singer was hitting the road with Barren Cross. Again, those people who had a chance to see the band found out that it was true: Vince Van Voltenburg was singing instead of Mike Lee. Both of these changes have not been "official member changes", because Steve and Mike both were under contract with the band. They felt they couldn't or shouldn't go out on the road at the time, and the rest of the band wanted to keep the dates, so replacement people were brought in.

The Lord's hand seemed to help, as replacements were found just in the nick of time to continue the tour. The band had a tremendous tour through West Germany, where the response to Vince was favorable. The Cornerstone '90 crowd seemed to really enjoy Vince, who could growl a pretty good imitation of Mike Lee, as well as bring his own high range vocals out to show his own style and personality. It was never officially announced by the band or the record company that Mike Lee and Steve Whitaker were out of the band, although Vince and the band had been writing material for a new album, which would probably serve as the official announcement of personnel changes.

Two new projects have hit the shelves since then: a remix of "Rock For The King", which was "re-produced" and mixed by Ronnie Montrose, and features several bonus live cuts on the cd; and "Hotter Than Hell", a live recording of the "Atomic Arena" tour with all four original members. The long-awaited live video of the "Atomic" tour is finally scheduled to see the light of day this Fall.

Once again, though, change has taken place. Rumors that Vince left the band this Summer have been confirmed by bassist Jim LaVerde, who comments that the band is now auditioning vocalists. (For those interested in trying out, send a demo tape to: BC, PO Box 4130, Redondo Beach CA 90278). Time will tell if Barren Cross does emerge with a new album, which Jim would like to begin early next year. Meanwhile, the band will take a short sabbatical. "We really went after it very hard for a good three years," Jim comments concerning the band's rigorous touring schedule. "We're just going to take a break from that for awhile."

Mike Lee reports that his new project may be happening real soon, which will give him the ability to cut loose in the thrash direction, as well as writing some killer, hook-laden melodic metal. Steve Whitaker is preaching his first sermon as this issue goes to press. He is also looking at doing something musical very soon. For those interested in his plans and direction, we've included a letter written by his mom--Beth Whitaker, author of The Calling Of A Rock Star - A Christian Mother's Story. Also featured are a few snapshots of Barren Cross from its last tour.

Vince Van Voltenburg (Photo by Donna Palmisciano)

Dear Doug (Heaven's Metal),

When I spoke to your Austin group in February, I told them that if any changes in Barren Cross developed, I would tell you. I am happy to do that now. Steve Whitaker and Mike Lee have officially left the band.

As you know, this is quite a normal occurrence in the music world, as well as any business organization. People grow at different paces and in different directions and follow new avenues as they move. I think the question most often asked of me about Barren Cross was, "Are they the original members?" and when I said, "Yes," people were shocked. Seven years is a long time for these pioneers in Christian rock music. They were 19 and 20 years old when God called them, and now they're 26 and 27.

We Christians, of course, have the added guidance of the Holy Spirit, and it is our responsibility to grow. As the band members each evolved, Steve began to feel God leading him in a different direction. New doors began to open for both he and his wife Christy, and they spent many hours on their knees in prayer seeking God's direction concerning this. While waiting on God's answer, Steve searched for another drummer to possibly take his place for one tour break. Soon he was introduced to Dave LaVie.

Now Dave and his wife prayed for guidance also...and Steve and Dave prayed together...and many of us were praying for them. Soon both men felt confident that God's will was for Dave to take Steve's place on tour. Working together, talented Dave quickly learned the sets and joined the band for the second half of the "State Of Control" tour. God also brought a keyboardist, whom Christy trained, to take her place on the tour.

Still waiting on God's answer, Steve decided to attend college and found a new love for education. Through testing, he also found that his strengths were in counseling and teaching and he felt led to pursue other ministry possibilities. His own church became in need of a youth pastor and he applied for the position. He was invited to attend the Evangelical Free Church pastors conference. The night before the meeting, he and Christy asked God to show them His will by either opening or closing this door. Did He want Steve with Barren Cross or the church? The answer was quickly revealed as his testimony and experience with BC and other Christian work was overwhelmingly accepted by the pastors. Steve will soon officially become the youth pastor of Hope Chapel Gateway in Torrance, California.

Does this mean he will leave music? On the contrary. Both Steve and Christy are accomplished musicians, and God has blessed their faithfulness to Him in this area also. You probably didn't realize that Steve wrote only one song on each of BC's three albums; but what songs--"Give Your Life To Jesus", "King Of Kings", and "Out Of Time", all of which were single hits. He has written several more songs and will be making a solo album soon.

Christy, of course, is the talented one who organized Barren Cross, created their logo and all art work, managed their successful first (Rock For The King) tour, and later played keyboards for them. She has formed a management/marketing company called I.M.P.A.C.T. and is currently managing the band Vengeance, as well as other Christian performers. She and Steve will be making beautiful music together for many years to come.

Last July, when I spoke in the

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BLOODGOOD	Shakin' the World (HM/live)		
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CRYSTAVOX	*Wear it Out (HM)		
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MINER, TIM	*A True Story (DP/R)		
MINIER, GREG	*Minier (SM)		
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NEWSBOYS	Hell Is for Wimps (R/HR)		
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SERAIAH	*Carnival World (HM)		
SEVENTH ANGEL	*The Torment (HM/SM)		
SMITH, MICHAEL W.	*Go West Young Man (R)		
SOLDIERS FOR CHRIST	*A Saved Man in the Jungle (RP)		
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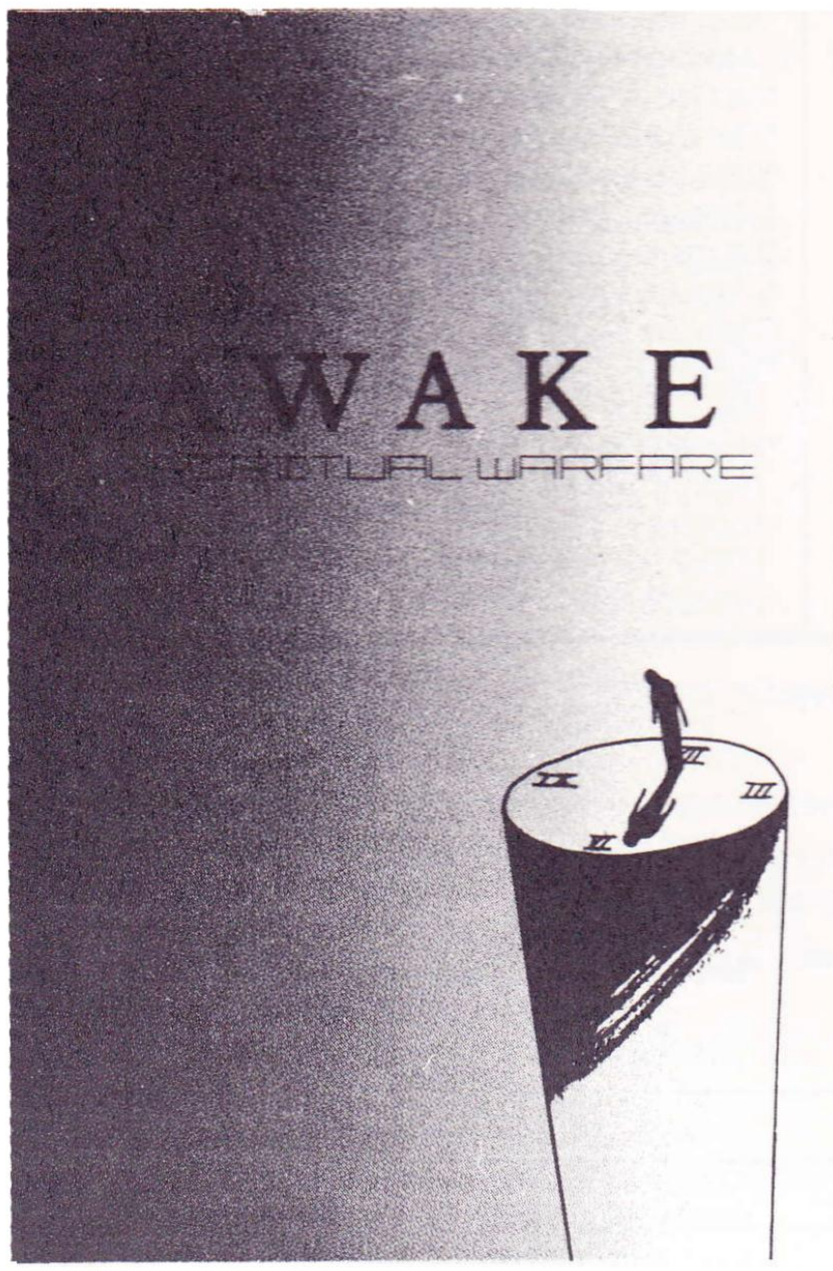
Chicago area, it was about BC and Christian rock music, but God also surprised me with a second ministry on the side. It was a vital healing ministry that I had been involved in for several years, and this was the message, loud and clear: that it was time to write a book about it.

We are all creatures of habit and like things to stay securely status quo. It is especially hard to leave a ministry. I had to get "fired" from my church organist job in 1983 because I refused to act on the signs that God had something new for me--to be "house mother" to Barren Cross and their liaison to the Church through the book The Calling Of A Rock Star--A Christian Mother's Story. Barren Cross has been Steve's, Christy's, and my life for seven years, and it has not been easy to leave...but the new doors that have opened also bring renewed excitement for us.

So you see, we should not be afraid of change--as long as we definitely feel a tugging of the Holy Spirit and have spent quality time in prayer over it. We are supposed to be continually growing in the Lord. Sometimes that means increasing the same ministry and sometimes it means that one ministry is a stepping stone to another--and even another. And yes, it takes a little extra faith, but being in the center of God's will is worth it. Unfortunately, we don't always know that until we've received that marvelous gift called hindsight!

--Beth Whitaker

Dave LaVie (Photo by Donna Palmisciano)



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CRYING OUT FOR HOLY SOLDIER

By Doug Van Pelt

Eric Wayne (Photo by Kirk J. Crippens 777)

1990 has been an exciting year for Holy Soldier so far. One filled with many ups and downs: They released their sizzling hot debut album last Spring, were picked up by A&M, filmed a video, started on a tour opening for Y&T in Chicago, and played Cornerstone. Some of the downs happened soon after: Although they had a great stage mix and were tearing it up onstage at Cornerstone, the festival audience was presented a bad mix; the Y&T tour canceled after one show in Chicago; the "See No Evil" video was turned down by MTV after only one week's push (some have said it was because the theme of the video was abortion, but it probably boiled down to not enough people at A&M were pushing behind it). A tour was about to start in September when lead vocalist Steven Patrick announced his departure. Producer David Zaffiro hand-picked a more than ample replacement, Eric Wayne, who stepped in with only a few weeks of rehearsals before hitting the road. On the road for one week, the band has had a few transportation problems. I think they've been through at least one motorhome. All of that behind them, the band is going out each night and putting on terrific shows.

The personnel change involving Eric Wayne is not the first Holy Soldier has faced. In fact, they've had quite an impressive list of personnel, which includes: Larry Farkas, who now grunts, screams and plays a mean guitar for Vengeance Rising; Chris Hyde, another thrasher at heart who went on to drum for Deliverance; and Robbie Brauns, who left the lead vocal position a few years ago to front a now-defunct band called H.E.R.O. Steven Patrick, who sang in a band that included his brother (called Victory) back in Memphis, Tennessee, joined Holy Soldier a couple years ago. This came after a six month waiting period of having no vocalist after Robbie Brauns' departure. Therefore, with the memory of waiting so long for a vocalist in the not-to-distant past, Patrick's sudden departure must've come as a devastating shock to these daring cliff-divers.

"It worked out really good," explains guitarist Michael Cutting, "because when the Y&T tour fell through and we came off the road, our previous singer, Steven Patrick had been married for almost a year and his wife was due with their first child. He felt that he wanted to pursue a family life and be with his family. We were behind that and supported him. We felt that was best for him and he felt the same.

"It's another testimony of our faith in God and how He's been so good to us. We were faced with a tour that was coming up, which at that time was about six weeks away, when Steve decided to leave. It was just a matter of trusting God. Within about a week Eric was introduced to us and just fell right into place and we went into rehearsals for about two or three weeks...and here we are. It's a real testimony of God's faithfulness."

"David Zaffiro, who produced their record," explains Eric, "also produced my old band's demo tape in Seattle (Red Reign). That's how I found out about these guys. David mentioned that there was a possibility of their singer leaving them, and asked if I was interested. I said, 'Sure.' Then the manager, Daryn Hinton, called me and asked me about it and pursued it a little bit more, and we got more and more serious. I got in touch with the guys on the phone. We talked a lot, and it looked good. It seemed like chemistry-wise, you know, and personality...we all had the same beliefs and got along real good, so it ended up me coming down and basically auditioning. If it worked out, I'd go on the tour. Everything came together just great."

"It feels real good with new fresh ideas," comments bassist Andy Robbins, "and new blood. With the new tour and stuff, it makes it real exciting. Being out on the road and confined in a bus isn't so bad when you're getting to know somebody new."

"It looked pretty grim," admits guitarist Jamie Cramer, "like you were saying when you went down the list of everything that happened. I think it was just a time where it's like, 'What are you gonna do? Are you gonna stand on the material things around you? Or are you gonna stand on the Lord?' That's what God was dealing with us. Our faith was either gonna be on our situation and on material things and how good it's going around us, or the Lord. It did look grim, but we knew in our hearts what was happening.

"It happened like that (snaps fingers), too. Our other record company, A&M (They have two separate contracts) is releasing a single and doing this big push now, because there was a Polygram buyout and our album was, like, dead in the water for a couple of months. Now that's happened, and there's the new tour and a new video is going to be happening soon. It was like a period of time that was a test of faith. We stuck in there and God blessed us with this joe over here (pointing at Eric). Everything's cool."

"I've noticed that throughout the six years we've been performing," says Andy, "everytime we allow God to stretch, or we've had to make our sacrifices, or give back the things He's given unto us; He seems to bless ten times more every time...you know, when we're patient and allow him to do His work like He wants it done."

It truly looks like all the waiting, patience and hard work is paying off, because the Holy Soldier show really is great. It's very happening musically and visually. Jamie is quick to explain the improvement of the band's visual show: "We've worked with a guy named Tom Jackson, who is a performance consultant, and he whipped our stuff into shape, basically. We're real energetic ourselves. Terry is a spazoid, Andy grooves, Mike's real hyper, I groove and dance and do my stuff, and Eric runs all over the place. What happened is we weren't working together. This guy, Tom Jackson, came in. He's really good. I'd recommend him if you're a band and you have stage problems. He was like a referee. He took us and, instead of all of us five guys doing our own thing, he made us a unit, working together.

"My main advice is to stick it out. If you're working towards something and you have a dream, ride it until you can't ride it anymore. The people who are gonna tell you that you can't do it are the ones who don't have your dream. We were all there. We were kids in high school thinking it was the farthest thing from our grasp, but it wasn't. It's starting to come true. It's not all fun. It's a lot of hard work. If I knew how much work it was back then, I wouldn't have done it. But, I wouldn't trade it for anything. The rewards spiritually are great."

With an image that some thrashers label "poser", Holy Soldier probably does their share of attracting the ladies. When asked how they dealt with it, the single members spoke up. "We have this calling," jokes Jamie. "It's called ministry dating (laughter)...just kidding."

"Usually we look at girls for what they are," says Andy. "It's one of the hardest things to look at a beautiful girl and know that she doesn't know the Lord and that we shouldn't have anything to do with her other than ministry. We're just searching, ya know. We know we're not gonna find her unless she's in a church or something. It's not gonna be in a trashy nightclub and a kind of thing where we're gonna have to lead her to the Lord. We both believe that God has a girl out there, and He's preparing her to be as much a part of this ministry as we are."

"It's like Michael's wife," explains Jamie. "She's real supportive of Mike and it's like they're collectively together a force that's part of our ministry. We're looking for women that are, of course beautiful, but beautiful in the Lord also. We have no business dating girls that aren't Christians. We are definitely looking for women who are in love with God and have the vision of ministry that we have and love us for who we are; because as the band progresses, it's gonna be one of those things where these Christian girls are gonna be chasing us for where we're at. We've gotta watch that too. I personally want somebody who wants me for me, and not because I do

Cont'd on page 17

Terry Russell at C-Stone '90 (Photo (c) 1990 James Cagle)

IN ZAFFIRO'S STORM

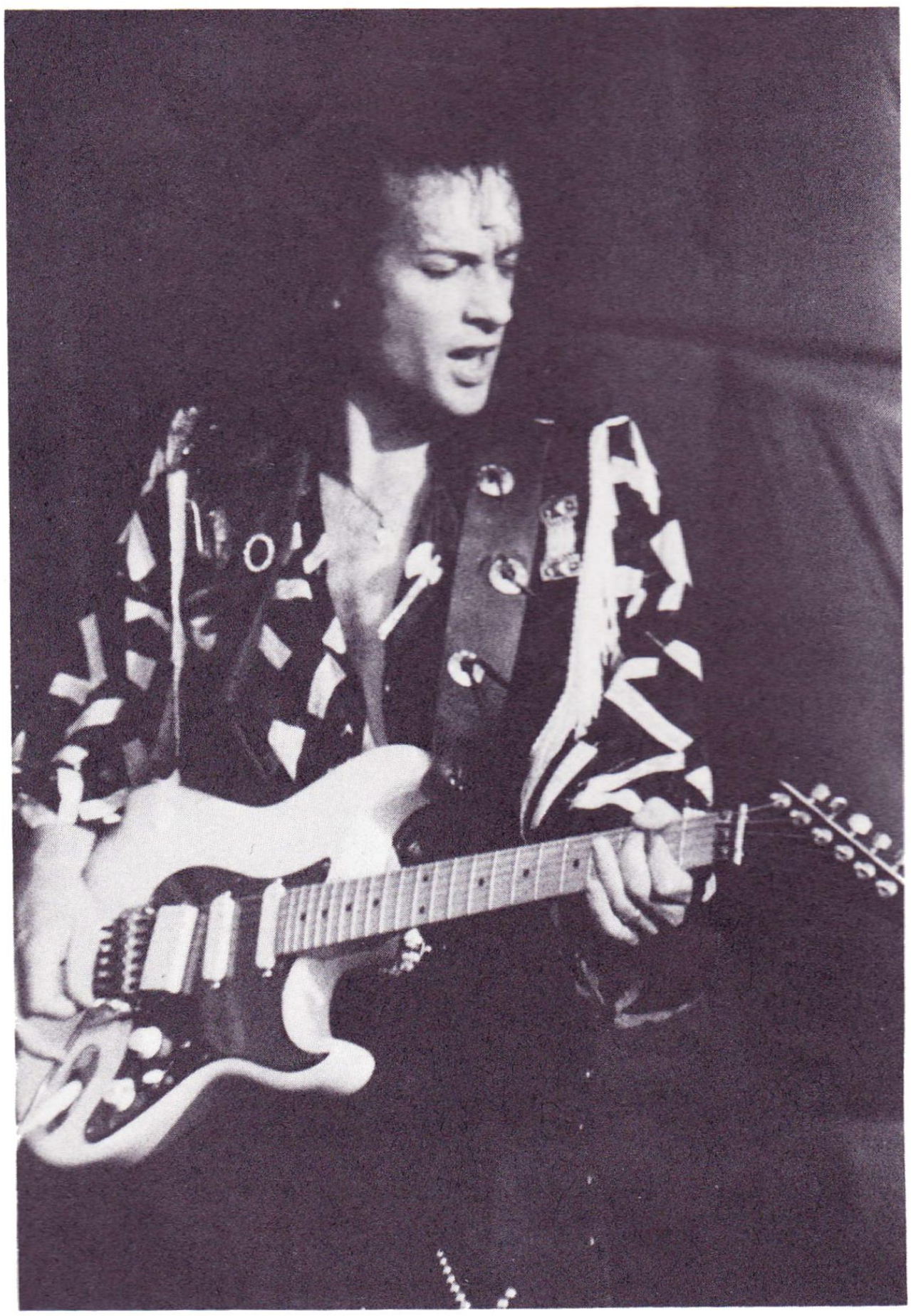
By Doug Van Pelt

Upon talking to Frontline's advertising director, Kent Songer, I was informed that David Zaffiro's latest solo album was like the "recording from hell" experience. When I reached David, he confirmed the report. "Where do i start?," he jokes. "So many things went wrong with this last record. It came to a point of just getting it done.

"I'll give you a quick overview of what happened: The studio had this machine called the "Otari 90/Series one." That thing is on medication, I think, continuously. We had a tech come down to calibrate the machine and strike the tones. We could strike the tones, but while he was there we had him do that as well, since we were going to be mixing in another studio in L.A. (you want the tones to be the same, so the two different machines are talking the same language). This thing blew out, I think 8 cards, which means 8 channels. It started heating up and smoking, one by one. Within two days it just ate up the cards. Apparently it had been biased incorrectly, which is still strange to me why that would make the cards blow. I don't put it past the machine. That happened first...so we could never get tones the way we wanted to on all the channels.

"Immediately thereafter the album was going to go into high gear, when lightning hit the machine. It went through the power lines, shut it off, and put a spike through every track in a song, 'Let It Go,' which is the sixth cut. I had pretty much wrapped it up, and was cutting the bass track. The drums are all done by this point. I went upstairs for a second. Now, when you leave your machine, it's good to take the tape off the heads. I didn't at the time, because i was just going up to get a refill of coffee...I didn't think it was that big of a deal. If I'm gone for a half hour or something I'll do it. Even if I was down there doing the track, it still would've happened. I went upstairs and all of a sudden everything dimmed in the house. Lightning hit pretty close and there was a huge thunder right after. It didn't actually hit the machine, but inadvertently it did, because it went through all the power lines. It shut down the power for a second and turned it back on. I thought to myself for a second, 'There it is. I know I've got a splatter on the tape. I just know it.' I walked down there, and the machine was unloaded, because the power shut off and turned back on. I loaded it back up and rolled it by that area and sure enough, 'ccrrrchh,' (says David as he mimics the sound) every time I ran it by that area. I thought, 'Maybe it's just on one or two tracks and I can just clean it up.' Nope, it was on almost all 24 tracks, some just very subtle, but through 'em all. I thought, 'Well, I'll just edit it out. This little splatter is probably 30 ips and probably about as long as my fingernail.' Where it had hit was actually on a high hat cymbal, so there was just no way. I had to re-cut the whole song.

"At one point it (the machine) tore my tape in half during the recording of a cut called 'Blue Ice'. It threw one of the pins across the room. If it would've hit us it would've hurt. I feel like I'm slamming the studio, and I don't want to. Poor Maverick Studio. Through all this Maverick's throwing in money, fixing this machine. It's fixed now. Let's see, what else? Well, it wouldn't go into rewind one day, it just wouldn't go. Then, when that got fixed, it kept blowing fuses continually. You're looking at a total of over a month of down time during this project. That was hard. Maverick's mother had not one, but two heart attacks during the project. His wife had a baby, which is a heavy thing. All these things went on during the project. They may not sound like much, or maybe they do; but for me it was a whole lot. It wasn't like it was happening to an engineer either, it was happening to the other producer of the project. The machine was doing nothing but blowing fuses. Every time it blew, by the way, it was on a Friday, and it waited until after five o'clock. Whenever we called the tech, he couldn't work, he was done for the day. So, of course, we couldn't get it fixed until Monday, but then we had to order parts. He ordered the parts on Monday and we waited 'til Tuesday. It was Wednesday before it was fixed. Then it would blow Thursday, and Friday we'd be back in the same boat again. It was incredible! I ended up going to Los Angeles to finish up all the vocals, back vocals, lead guitar solos, and production ideas--almost half the record."



David captured in a "Magic Moment" (Photo (c) 1990 Karen Loke)

**How did the sense of frustration enter into the concept of the album?

"The name of the record is: 'David Zaffiro - In Scarlet Storm.' There's a song on there called 'In Scarlet Storm.' For me, the record is dealing a lot with sin in my life. I'm struggling in a lot of areas of sin in my life...not sin I've never had to deal with before. I think they're kinda getting magnified and the lord is dealing with 'em at this point in my life. They're being weeded out. This is a purifica-

tion stage in my life. That song, 'In Scarlet Storm,' is this rendition of Jesus praying for the disciples when he sends 'em out in a boat. The disciple's hearts are very hardened at that time. This fierce storm started and they began to struggle amongst themselves and deal with themselves in the midst of the storm, and basically, I think, look at their own sin in their own heart. He just kinda gave them over to it and He prays for them. They're out there for probably six hours struggling. The song has this argument in the front section between Larry Melby (Liaison) and Eric Beaver (Eric Wayne--Holy Soldier).

"David Zaffiro is portrayed in this record a bit. I tell ya, I felt like one of the disciples in that boat--just arguing, to the point where I was swearing. I don't swear much. Since I've became a Christian the Lord really delivered me of that. I didn't face it. I had a real foul mouth as a teenager, but I just never had a problem with it after I became a Christian. It kinda left my mind. At this point, it pushed me so far that I began cursing again. I just went, 'Man, what is happening to me?' I was at the point of finding myself on my knees and saying, 'Lord, forgive me,' and getting close to God again. My producer and I we were praying over this thing. I felt like one of those guys on the boat. I could see peter cursing, 'Give me those oars! I'll get us over to the other side.' James is going, 'You don't know nothing.' These guys were men of the sea, and not being able to get across to the other side was probably a frustrating thing. That's what this record is all about: The tension of this machine breaking down and not having anything to do about it. It was like I couldn't go to another studio that I go to a lot, because he was booked up solid. I just couldn't get in to any other studio.

"The project really turned around in L.A. I was kinda worrying about it, going, 'Gosh, I've gotta go down to L.A. and produce all these vocals. My co-producer couldn't go with me. When you're in there producing your own vocals, it's pretty tough: running back and forth after a take, and you're really counting on this other producer to say, 'yeah,' or 'nay.' I was really kinda dreading it and feeling that I was gonna go down there and have Frontline really have to push me to get this thing done, nay on Zaffiro, we've gotta wrap this up. It's gone over. You've extended your release date. Don't worry about this take, it's good enough...' all these anxieties. I thought 'It's really gonna be a trip going down there, out of my sandbox, my own little playground, in Seattle.'

"It wasn't that way at all. A guy named Doug Beiden did a lot of the production. I gave him a credit for co-producing the lead vocals, because he did such a fabulous job. He's a great beginning engineer. It was so fun. It was real spontaneous. We'd go in the studio and turn on the machine, and it would work! I enjoyed that. I wasn't used to having things work for me. I had a lot of fun doing the guitar solos down there. We did all the recording in Neverland, which is Derri Daugherty's (The Choir) studio, and he put me up in his little condo. It was just great. He treated me like real royalty."

**The last album touched on death and child abuse. Are there any themes that you want to comment on this album?

"'I Wait Alone' is about the prodigal son, with the perspective of the father waiting for his son to return. The father's waiting for his son that's gone astray. I think we all do that at different times, as far as any compromise. Seeing that in my life, and sharing that as a Christian, it gives people hope that you can have peace with God by just taking his hand, like 'In Scarlet Storm,' when Peter took Jesus' hand there was peace. It ends with 'Give This Life To You'. The whole record kinda leans that way, because of what I've been going through this year. It's not like I'm a backslidden Christian that doesn't love God or anything like that; but I'm seeing things in my life that I don't think God's pleased with that I have to get it out of my life and become sincere with my first love. I look at my first, second, and third year as a Christian, and I say, 'I've gotta get back to that.'"

**How did you hook up Eric with Holy Soldier?

"They were looking for a singer and I knew that he was up here doing something with Craig Church, and they needed somebody to fill the dates for the show. I thought, 'Okay, if Eric does the tour with 'em, I know it would help them. Maybe it would turn into something else, like Eric being a permanent member or whatever.' I didn't feel good about it for Red Reign's sake, or Craig Church, because they potentially are a real cool band as well. I just kinda threw it out. 'These guys are looking for a singer. You may want to check it out.' He's really, really good. He's very trained and he sounds very good. By the blessing of God the whole change happened very quickly, as it needed to, so they could continue on the tour."

**Did you feel weird when you saw the Bloodgood rock theater?

"The weirdest thing for me was to see them get ready for the show in the back room. It was like, 'Wow, this is something I used to be involved in. I'm close to these guys, and they're gonna go on stage in a few minutes, and I'm not with them in that capacity anymore. It was very different for me. It wasn't a feeling of dread. It was more a feeling of just change. Bloodgood changed."

**What's the musical direction on this new album?

"Heavier. It's got two slow songs on it and a college-radio type song. The rest of the songs are heavy. They're not really fast metal. The vocals aren't real heavy. It's definitely not mellow like 'The Other Side.'"

**What do you look for in a band as far as whether or not you're gonna work with?

"It changes with every band. Right now i'm looking for...I've been wanting to do a band that is like a real live, spontaneous band, like Van Halen's first record. A band that tracks live, like 1, 2, 3; we're gonna get the bass, drums, and guitar and that's a take. That would be a challenge for me. I feel like my heart's into that. At the same time I want to do a Zion project that's bigger than life, that really rips your head off. I'm looking for one element of the band that's live, or magic, that needs to be captured on tape. If I see a band that doesn't have anything that needs to be captured on tape, there's not much reason for me to produce it.

"You can lose an artist sometimes, and that's not good. You're not doing your job if that happens. If they sound homogenized or plastic after your done, you've ruined 'em. It's especially hard to do in the Christian industry, because you don't have some of the better gear that you may need."

**Do you feel a lot of pressure?

"Not lately. I feel like I've got stuff to live up to, as far as a producer. I don't know, maybe I've got a big head. I want the next Zion record to be better than their last by far. I want the next (Holy) Soldier record to be better than their last.

"As a producer: I know how to make tracks sound good; I know how to make real big tracks; and I know how to make artists sound better than they are, so they can grow to a point of living up to it on their tours; but, can I capture a magical moment on tape? I've done it. I can do it, but for a whole record with a band that that's all they do? You see some bands live and you say, 'Man, they were great live, but I just don't like their record.' That's a shame. So, I'd like the challenge of trying to do that."

**Would you like to produce Bloodgood someday?

"I'd love to. Les Carlsen can be very magical. You could let him do several takes, and you could go through the whole track and work through it, even if it takes days to get a song. He's so spontaneous, and he's got so much power and you get things on a take that he'll probably never do again. This needs to be captured."HM

HOLY SOLDIER Cont'd:

this. That's a very hard thing, because you get lonely and you want companionship. You struggle with it constantly. If there's a girl that turns your head, your mind's going, 'Uh, get her phone number,' but you know what you should and shouldn't do. It's a constant struggle with your self and your flesh.

"You know how God works with Andy and I?" Jamie says with a grin. "We'll see a beautiful girl, who is, like, 'Oh my gosh! Whoa!' and you wind up meeting her and she's foul-mouthed, disgusting. Her looks can stop a train, but she'll open her mouth and she'll, like, offend you because of her language or her morals will turn you off so bad. It makes her unattractive. It's God's way of helping us deal with it."

Help Holy Soldier get airplay by calling 1-800-DIALMTV and your local radio station; or write: MTV, 1775 Broadway, New York NY 10019. HM

TRYTAN BREAKS THE SILENCE

By Jim Carey

Celestial Messenger, Trytan's first release, came out in June of 1987. The awesome follow-up, **Sylentiger**, is certainly well worth the wait. But...Why wait? Lary Dean, guitarist, lyricist, and singer of the band, explains:

"There were a lot of different obstacles that we encountered. A lot of them were spiritual situations that God was arranging for us. We're trying to be sensitive to God's timing. Our tendency is to be real anxious, especially in this business. We'd like to be on top of it, with releases as prompt as possible (every year, that is).

"The first setback was a feeling that the Lord wanted us to pursue better distribution. At the time, that meant leaving R.E.X. Now we're back with R.E.X. and very happy about it. Since then He's secured major distribution that we feel is necessary in order for God to do what He desires with Trytan.

"Scotty (Blackman, former drummer)'s decision to take a break from music ministry set us back from recording **Sylentiger**. That was the second setback."

Steve Robinson, Lary Dean, Jim Dobbs

A major focus for **Sylentiger** was the songwriting. Lary had general goals, as well as specific intentions as the lyrics were laid down.

"Songs are just one of the tools that the Lord uses in a ministry like ours. But as we pray about the whole ministry, the creation of the songs is something that we agonize over. I pray that God will use the words. I feel that the Spirit of God put those burdens on our hearts. He allowed them to be captured in the musical form that they did, because they're gonna touch people's lives."

The first side of "Sylentiger", Lary says, "challenges the listener to 'Take Cover' in the love of God." It is introspective, provoking an honest look within. Side two, starting with the title track, marks a change of direction.

"It causes people to look at God--His awesome love. In the title track, He is the hunter of the brokenhearted. Because of (lifeless) religion, young people today don't understand who God is. Churches have distorted who Jesus really is. If nothing else, we want 'Sylentiger' to cause people to see God as He really is. Christ died for us. He did something for us that the human mind can hardly fathom at all. He tasted our death, He took our sin upon Himself. The Father turned away from Him...And yet, He is the God who will melt the earth--with a word. It's like the image of the Lion/Lamb. God carries those attributes in perfect balance. The Lamb sacrificed for our sins, and yet the Lion of the tribe of Judah--all judgment is given to Him."

Lary is known among friends as one of the busiest guys on the planet. But much of his energy is reserved for family (He and Rhonda have three children). He has worked side jobs as a mechanic, a truck driver, an electrician, a cook, and in concrete work.

These jobs have given Lary time to develop an ear for the Lord's voice. He's observed that too often we lose sight of the basics and wander from the love and simplicity of truth. Christian music festivals have inspired many praises from Lary. Recent fests in the area also inspired some words of caution.

"You and I are not above getting caught in complacency--not being radically sold-out for the Lord. When we get off-balance like that, Satan jumps on us and brings temptation.

"I think of King David: He wasn't in the battle (against the Ammonites; he sent someone else out to lead the army). David was kickin' back with some r & r. That's when he got in trouble with Bathsheba--he wasn't moving for the Lord.

"Christianity is almost a fad in some communities today. Kids think it's cool to 'get in.' There's a lot going on with Christian music...praise God that it's getting stronger every year! But as it grows, kids are getting into it skin-deep. They like the sound of the band; it catches their ear. The thought seems to be, 'I can have heavy metal and serve Jesus, too!' Heavy metal doesn't save kids--Jesus saves kids. People need to wait and pray and approve what God wants them to do with their lives. We should be busy in the battle in our daily life...reading devotionally, studying the Word, praying, being serious that God's Word is living and active.

"I like to simplify. I know God wants me to take care of my family first, before any other ministry besides my personal walk with Him. Everything else comes after that. God's able to steer me when I'm spiritually in tune--when I can handle the little things. We're proved in those little things."

Compared to his side jobs, part of Lary's non-Trytan work is more music-oriented. He's been spending time with Christian bands, working with recording, vocals, songwriting, pre-production, and mixdown. These bands include: Shadow Wings, Legionnaire, Screamin' Eden, Angelic Warrior, and Justin Power. Former drummer Scotty Blackman's project will also be done through Lary and Advent Productions.

"We try to work with bands that we feel are really in tune with what God wants them to do. We feel there's a real gap...we're urging everyone to pray for people to be raised up...as administrators, booking agents, managers, concert promoters, record people, A&R (Artist & Repertoire) people, and sales. The artists outnumber the administrators at least a couple thousand to one.

"Christians, because of the Spirit of God, are usually very compassionate. They tend to want to help everyone; especially when they see talented people with no outlets to cultivate, sharpen and deliver their ministry. What happens is a lot of people wind up getting overworked, or ministries never leave their own backyard.

"We need people to help cultivate and disciple young believers in their walk with the Lord. It breaks my heart to see people go into such a dangerous area of ministry without being rooted and grounded. They're not plugged into their church the way they should be...maybe they are, but they don't have a rapport with their pastor. They're not talking to him about their ministry; not praying with people about it."

With Glenn Kaiser of REZ foremost

in mind, I think of others who have emphasized the importance of accountability. But the concept can be rather abstract. Lary gave a concrete example of what it means for Trytan to "be accountable."

"I'm the one who would observe most things that would need to go to Pastor Joseph (Prudhomme, from Calvary Chapel, Blue Island). Usually it's just getting a confirmation on something I think the Lord might be telling me. I lay it out to Joseph, so he can pray about it and get back to me, or we can just talk about it then.

"There have been times when I haven't been sure that lyrics are gonna be perceived the way I think the Lord wants them to be. I'll go to Pastor Joseph. For example, in 'Here To Stay,' the bridge goes: 'Now it's time for you to see/ love's deepest mystery/Hear the whispers of the heart/of the One Who loves you as you are.'

"I didn't want people to think that you can be a Christian and remain the way you are. The whole point of 'Here To Stay' is God's promises to us: He'll never leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5), and 'while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us' (Romans 5:8). He loves us for who we are, but He hates our sin. He wants us to deal with that through the blood of His Son. This should motivate us to change our lives to conform to Jesus after we receive His salvation.

"I took that to Joseph and he got a feel for where I was going with the song. He said, 'No, that's fine. God does love us as we are. People need to know that, unlike the partiality of humans, God loves people as we are.'"

Trytan has received airplay and correspondence from all around the world. So far, though, live performances have been limited to Illinois and nearby states. Is a breakthrough at hand?

"We've committed to do a nationwide tour through the Fall and into the beginning of '91. Lord willing, it'll be with Shadow Wings. We're open for other dates the Lord opens up for us. We'd like to get on an ICM (a major booking agent) tour, with Skid Row or another secular band.

"Our heart is where these kids are--where we came out of. We feel the Lord wants us to go back and pull them out of the fire (Jude 23). There's a multitude of these kids seeing Motley Crue, Tesla, etc. that will never go to a Christian concert."

Trytan has learned to wait on the Lord. Their hope is to teach others about the character of God, but not at the cost of the band's personal relationships. They're wary of the pitfalls involved in the battle ahead. Until that time, they are helping others become effective musicians. They look for that open door while taking heed of spiritual counsel from Pastor Joseph. God is the final judge, but these sound like ingredients for a tour that will bring "exceeding abundantly beyond all Trytan can ask or think." HM

Stevie And The Saints, the band that rolled into the Christian music industry with a no-holds-barred Blues Rock album in 1987 called "Metal Blue", is back! Steve Osbourn, a self-professed "oddball that God stuck in the church to bug people," took some time on the phone with Heaven's Metal recently, explaining where he's been and where the Saints are goin'.

A Christian for 23 years, Stevie has never played in a secular band. "I've been doing music since God called me into it at an altar call." And what kind of music did he start playing? "Heavy Blues-based stuff is what I've been doing all along," confesses Steve. "I don't think I'll ever be a traditional, like B.B. King or Muddy Waters...I'm into the Rock thing. I went to G.I.T. in California, where I got a reputation as a Blues player. Blues is like water--it mixes with anything."

Since nobody but Stevie was doing the ZZ-Top, heavy Blues thing in 1987, save for maybe Darrell Mansfield, one would think that he would've hit the top of the Christian rock heap by now. But, due to the limitations that an independent label and Spring Arbor distribution can pose, the sheep-at-large didn't really get the chance to hear Stevie's charm. That, hopefully, is about to change. Blues is more popular these days, and Stevie's back with a new bunch of Saints to continue the Blues Rock assault he began years ago. "We're like the five loaves and two fish. We ain't much, but we feed a lot of people."

A little over a year ago, Stevie And The Saints broke up. "I lost two cats that I'd been working with for five years." This led to a year of blues...but this time it was the real stuff. "I had extreme depression and low self-esteem. I've since come to realize some things, like the fact that I was an adult child of an alcoholic. I came from a dysfunctional family. I was the first person in my family tree, as far as I know, who got saved (age 15). Anyway, I started going to ACA (Adult Child of Alcoholics) meetings. I found out that, number one: It was never God's will for me to feel the way I've felt. I'm not a cosmic joke. I'm a blood-bought child of God."

This realization and the healing that's come to Stevie didn't come easy. He, as millions like him will attest, had to face some things in his past...stuff that wasn't fun to deal with. "Read the book Inside-Out by Larry Crabb," he says. "That guy nailed it on the head. There are times to look back and not ignore stuff that's gone on in your life. I've got some answers now to stuff that's chewed away at me for years. The last year has been a real blessing for me. I've missed not playing, but there's been some neat things the Lord has done.

"Sometimes the Lord will lead us to bitter water, but it's only for our own good." The Lord has been doing some motivation-checking with Stevie, stuff like making sure he wasn't striving to succeed, "just so you could cram it down the throat of those who said you couldn't."

After a time "in the desert", God seemed to bring Stevie out quickly. "I was one day away from bankruptcy and this guy dropped $8,000 on me--no strings attached. This brother said, 'You seem the most logical guy for this money. I was gonna give it away anyway.' It was unbelievable."

Soon, he got a call from Ken Roberts of Victoria Ltd., the band's label, who said, 'Hey! I just booked a Steve And The Saints gig.'

"I told him, 'There ain't no Stevie And The Saints,' and he goes, 'I've got a drummer, bass player, and a studio. Let's do this gig and then go in and do another record.' So now I'm back with Ken Roberts, who I started with, which leads me to think that that's where the Lord wanted me." Stevie's sense of

CONT'D ON PAGE 39

WHAT METALLICA SEZ:

By Phil Chalmers

Kirk Hammett (Photo by Ross Halfin)

Here's a glimpse at thrash metal's most popular band: Metallica. Phil Chalmers caught up with guitarist Kirk Hammett a while ago and recorded the conversation. Listen in:

**Okay, I'm going to ask you about some of your songs...Let's start with the song "Jump In The Fire".

"I can't remember how the lyrics go, but they're probably what you think they are about."

**It seems like it's talking about Satan. It says "jump by your will, or you will be taken by force/ I'll get you either way."

"Yeah, that was real immature. I mean, we will never do anything like that ever again."

**"Seek And Destroy"...

"That's just about having a lot of fun. You're not supposed to take it literally."

**How about "Fade To Black"?

"That's about a person who is really depressed, and he's trapped in this depressed state. A lot of people think it promotes suicide. I don't think it does."

**At the end it says, "Nobody but me can save myself/ but it's too late/ Death greets me warm/ Now I will just say goodbye..." How do you deal with people who say this song is causing kids to take their life?

"We can't be responsible for everyone's mental state of mind. If people single out that song as a reason for them to take their life, or using it to justify their decision to take their life--that's wrong."

**I want to run a case by you that happened in my area here. A kid took his life and had your lyrics in his suicide letter. He said that, basically he was suicidal and this song kinda summed up what he wanted to do. I guess it kinda pushed him over the edge. How do you respond to that?

"It's a horrible thing to be in this position, but, you know, you can't be responsible for everyone. We are in no way in control of other people's psychosis. A person is a master of their own destiny. There's no way that we could stop it. If we did have control over it, we'd obviously say, 'This is just a song. It's not meant to be taken literally.' If a kid is very suicidal and he doesn't get the proper help and takes his life, who's fault is it? Is it the kid's fault, the parent's fault, or our fault?"

**What is your main goal as a rock band?

"To play good music and to make a statement of some sort. I know a lot of the stuff we say is dark, and it isn't very positive, but the usual, normal, healthy person can differentiate from that. We are not telling people to do anything at all. We're not preaching. We're not using our popularity as a platform."

**Do you feel you have an accountability to your audience?

"Yeah, but only to an extent."

**How do you feel about all the negativism in rock 'n' roll; like the Satanic, the violence, and the pro-suicide messages?

"I'm the type of person that could take it or leave it. Like Satanism: There's two sides of it. You have your Satanic bands, like Slayer and Venom; and then you have your anti-Satanic bands, like Stryper and whoever else. Who is doing good and who is doing bad is in the eye of the beholder. Is any band right for doing what they do?

"If they want to shove their ethics down people's throats, that's fine with me; but as a person who's in control of my own choices, I'm just not going to pay attention to either of it, because I don't think either of it is worth more merit than the other."

**What is your philosophy of life?

"I'm pro human. I'm pro humanitarian. I'm pretty aware of what goes on around me."

**What religious background do you come from?

"Catholicism."

**Are you a practicing Catholic right now?

"Not a practicing...If you want my religious idea, I believe there is a supreme being...a supreme energy, it's like a big mesh of religions."

**How do you feel about Jesus Christ?

"I don't know if He actually was ever here. I just know I believe in a supreme being."

**Are you happy with your life right now, Kirk?

"Yeah."

**What do you base your happiness on?

"I have goals to look forward to, and I'm accomplishing a lot of goals. I'm at a point where I could have a lot, but I don't ask for a lot."

**If you die today, what happens?

"I'd make sure I'd get cremated."

**After you get cremated, then what?

"So, in other words, you're asking me if I believe in life after death? You know, it's the eternal mystery. No one knows any more than anyone else does."

**Have you ever read the Bible?

"Yeah, I went to a Catholic school."

**Do you believe the Bible?

"The Bible is one of the world's most read pieces of literature. Whether I believe in it or not is an entirely different question altogether. I tend to view it as more of a literary piece than anything else."

**What would you say to someone who said Jesus Christ died on a cross for your sins, and you had to make a decision to accept Christ, and if you didn't, you'd be burning in the lake of fire for eternity?

"That's an unfair assumption."

**Why?

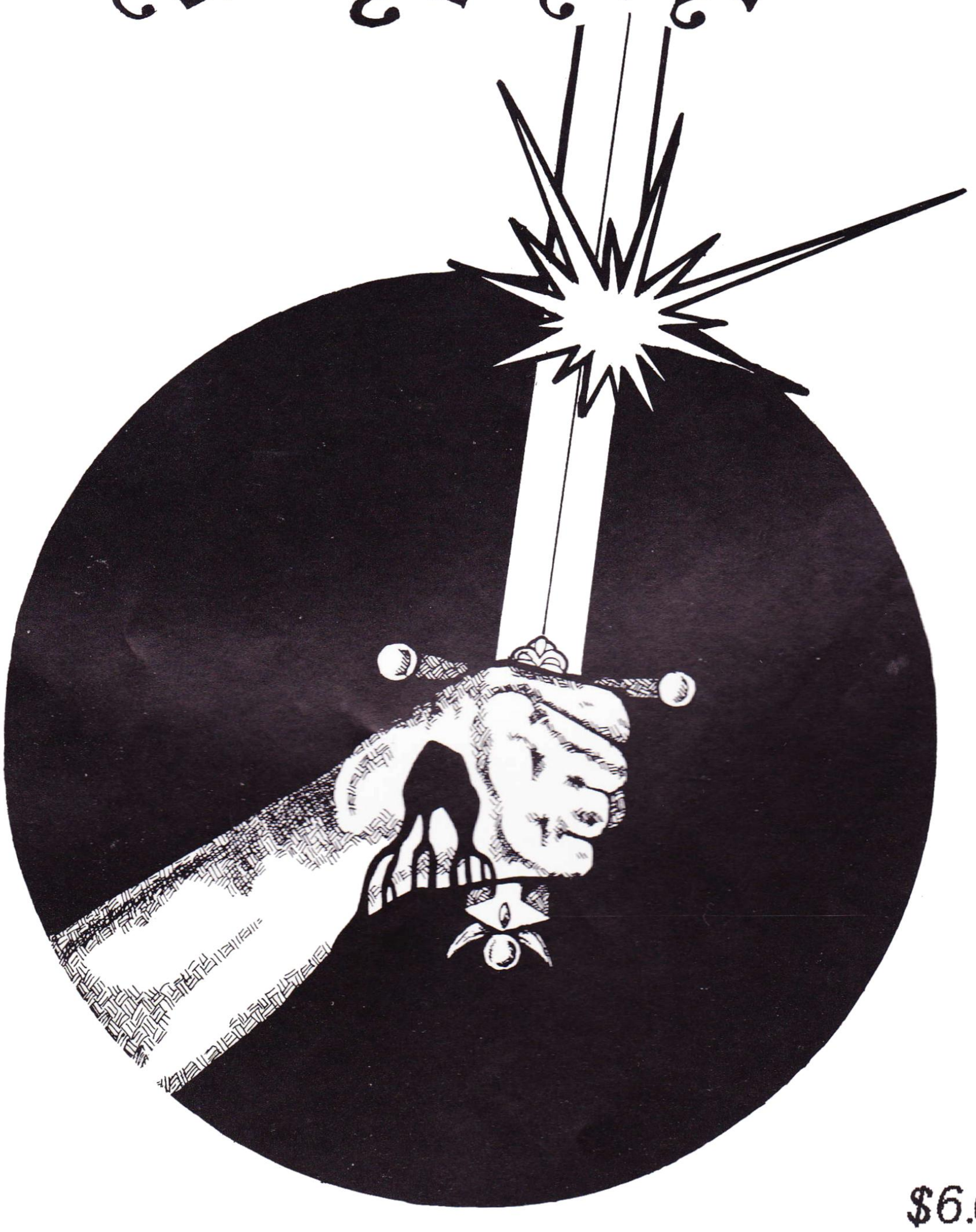
"Because I don't think that anyone living would have any sort of decision like that over anyone dead."

**Would you like to say anything to our readers, which are predominantly Christians?

"It's interesting talking to people who are so devout. I'm not as devout, obviously, as your readers. I'm a person with my own views and my own outlooks, and I feel strongly about my opinions. And, I feel strongly about the band's approach to certain things." HM

"RAGING BATTLE"

ROYAL BLOOD



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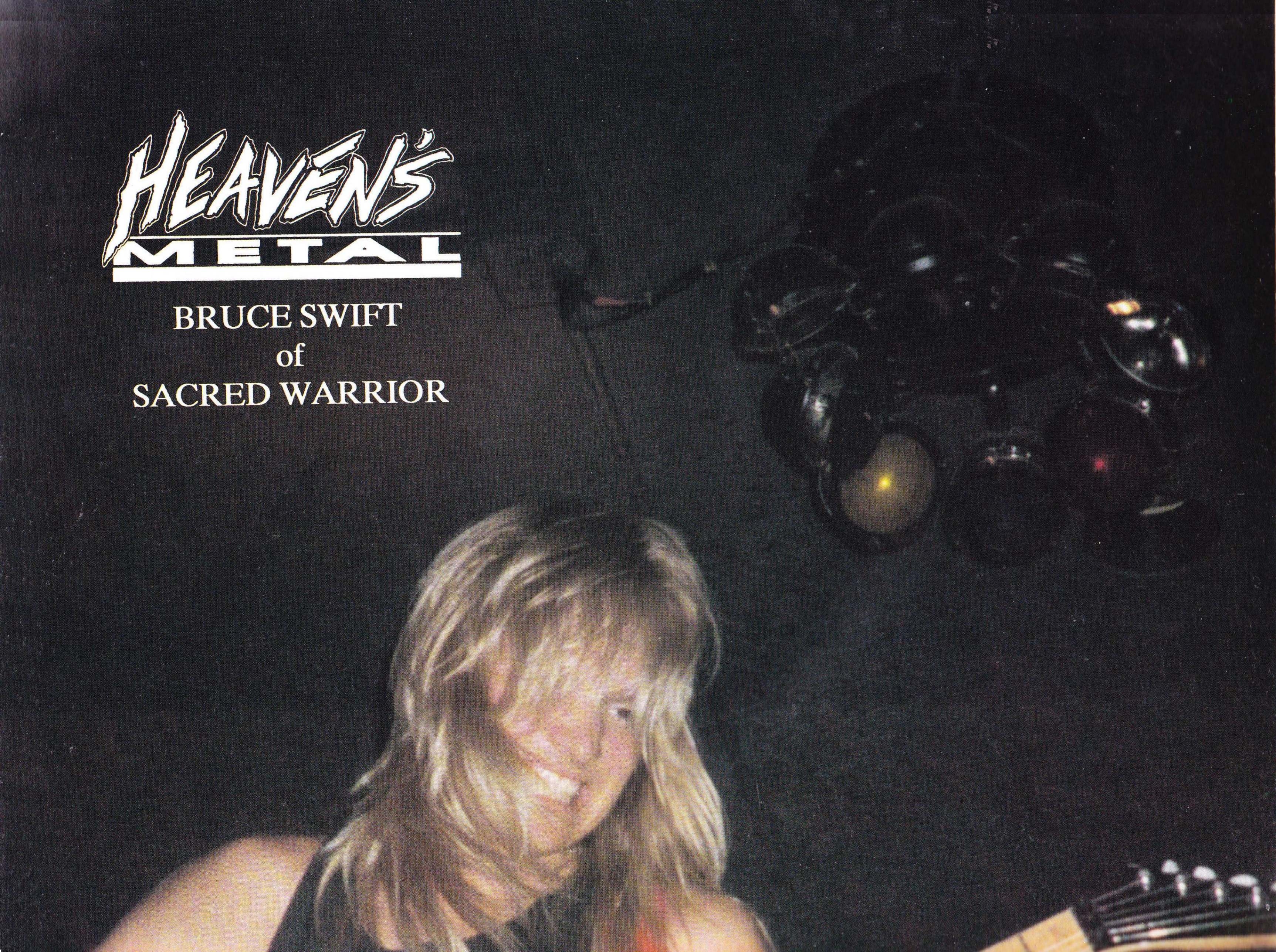
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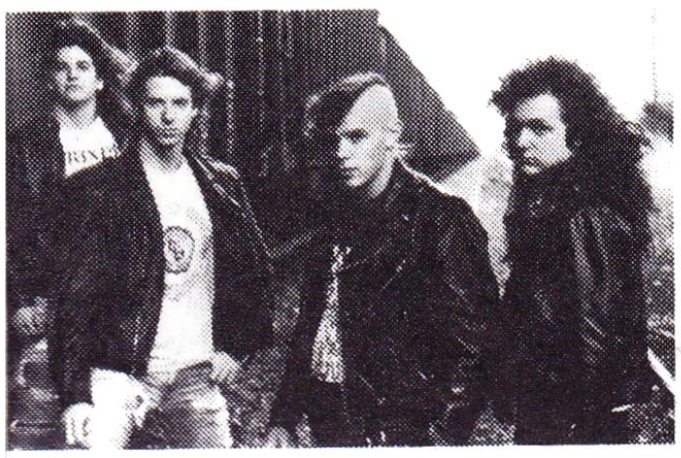

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OPENING UP SEVENTH SEAL

By Marc Carpenter

Seventh Seal is one of the coolest new bands to emerge in the Kingdom. Their stage show is incredible. They always have the audience either smiling or staring in awe. This band needs to be exposed to everyone, and all-around cool guy, Marc Carpenter, cornered J.R. Montgomery of Seventh Seal for the following interview.

****You were on the R.E.X.-sponsored stage at Cornerstone, weren't you? What happened? Who won?**

"We won," says J.R.

****You did?**

"Yeah! We didn't take the record contract. They weren't giving one away this year."

****Oh no! I thought they were!**

"No, not this time."

****Okay, tell me more about the band.**

"We're straight. We're not an L.A. poser band. I tell you who we're like--we're like Believer, except we're more colorful than they are, meaning that we have big baggy multi-colored pants on. Have you ever seen pictures of us?"

****Yeah, I sure have.**

"Okay, I don't know which ones you've seen--probably the crazy ones or the mellow ones, or both?"

****I've actually only seen the crazy ones. You have mellow ones?**

"Nah, just serious, like we're about ready to bite your head off. Like, 'Don't come down this block.' (laughs) Every time we take serious pictures, people think that we're really scary-looking, so we always have to make some funny ones. Anyway, my brother plays bass, I play guitar, Mel plays guitar, Sly is the drummer, and I don't know if you know that we got a new lead singer."

****No!**

"Yeah, when we were at Cornerstone, we had a new singer. Our old singer didn't want to be under the light that you're under when you're in a Christian band, that magnifying glass. We've played with a lot of secular bands, and he had some things of the world that he didn't want to get rid of. There's no use in building a ministry and then having somebody go and screw it up for you by their testimony. That's ridiculous. We're going to be held accountable for that. And there's no difference for you and me; it's not that we don't have our shortcomings, it's just that God requires holiness from us whether we like it or not. The new guy, Rick, is really professional. We haven't changed the concept, so nothing's changed there. I've written most of the material. It's like I went into the studio for the first demo and did all the music parts except for the drums, and I did vocal harmonies. The band was a concept, so I went and did it all at first, and then I went back to the guys and said, 'Look, guys, see what you can do if you put your heads together and if God so wills it?' And they said, 'Yeah, maybe it is a good thing,' and then everybody jumped in. It's almost like I had to get everybody's fire started, and then as the Lord led, basically, we prayed for another guitar player, and we got Mel, a great guitar player. He's actually better than me. He's just got the speed licks down. I'm just a writer; I've been playing music all my life, from saxophone to bass to Celtic harp."

****What do you guys do other than being in a band?**

"That's interesting. Rick is a general contractor, and he builds homes up in the San Francisco area. My brother and I are general contracting down here in Southern California--this is just the way it worked out. My dad has a heavy equipment company, and my brother and I are 1/3 owners in it. And that

Shawn, Mel & Rick jammin'...

basically finances this band. As musicians, we're pretty spoiled, as far as what we play and stuff. We use the best of everything (laughs). People go, 'How'd you do that?' and I go, 'Dude, I work!' But it's because of the grace of God that I've been able to do this. Three years ago I had nothing--I was just a normal bum guitar player, but God really did it."

****How did you come to the Lord?**

"I've been saved for about 10 years. I came to the Lord right out of high school. A brother in college witnessed to me, told me about the Lord, after I had been partying all summer long right on into the school year. He went on to meet the Lord, by the way. He's the same age as me, and he had a stroke in 1987. I'm now 29 years old."

****How did you guys get started?**

"Six years ago, God gave me an idea while we were driving back east through some turnpikes. I don't remember what state it was, but it was a turnpike state (laughs). We were driving along, and I heard Stryper for the first time, and I said, 'That sounds like it would be interesting. I oughta do that!' I'd played metal all my life; I mean, it's almost all I like! And so I got really involved in listening to Stryper and thought it was a great thing to do until we tried to pull it off two years later. My cousin was the other guitar player, and we had the same drummer, and we began writing. And it just wasn't the Lord's timing, musically, and it wasn't too happening. So I waited until 1989 when we put together 'Ruff Draff.'"

****Have any labels been interested in you?**

"Yeah, umpteen million. The only thing that held us back is the Lord. He's not ready to do that for us yet. We've been having a purging problem and getting people ready to go."

****What was going through your mind when you wrote the lyrics to "Fire?"**

"Wow. It's a pretty heavy tune. Well, you know we're pro-American, and I don't mean to boast, but I'm a black long-haired right-wing conservative Republican."

****Well, speaking of that, before we get to the song, how does it make you feel when people on the same end of the political spectrum as you are burning crosses?**

"I understand what you're saying. I know the Truth; the Truth set me free. This is really cool. Being black makes it really tough--this is what's really weird. I believe in the rights and responsibilities for freedoms we have in our country. Even as twisted as the KKK are, they have their own right to do that. What we basically believe is that as Americans, we have the freedom and liberty to do and believe as we choose, and there are people who died for us and our country, that died for the rights for us to be free. Even the slaves, they worked and worked, and then they fought for the rights to be free.

"I grew up in a liberal home. My stepmother's Italian, and my dad's black. God's the One Who changed my heart, I mean, literally, I was a bum. And when I got saved, I was like, 'Whoa, man, look at this--look at the freedom and liberty we have!' And then I started realizing that some of the left way of thinking was wrong--the tearing apart of family, and no morals. God put the morals in my life. The Bible says that we become a new creation, a new mind, the mind of Christ. And it's more conservative than the world is. I wasn't raised with all the morals that a lot of Christians were raised with, and it's really hard, because we grew up in a world where we would go out with a million girlfriends and do this, that, and the other thing, but that's not what God requires of us. He requires one wife.

"Still, there are a lot of needs that need to be met--Christians should be out helping the poor and teaching them instead of the government teaching them. They're in their own world, making all this money, and they're not even taking care of their own. And I look at that and I see that a lot of it is the Christians' fault that we're not taking care of our own. We need to be taking care of the poor. Our ministry is to the people who might not otherwise hear the Gospel because of Glam and TV, and that's one of the reasons why we're not a glam band. We're just basic down-to-earth guys. As far as the skinheads and the Klan and all that stuff--I know the Truth. The Truth is Jesus Christ, and Jesus Christ crucified."

****Now back to the question about the lyrics to "Fire."**

"'Fire, my land is on fire, my land is burning away.' Literally, it's going to Hell! We're praying out to Yeshua. I was learning Hebrew at the time, that's why I chose the word Yeshua. There's another song called, 'Peace, Peace, There Is No Peace.' We started out singing it in Hebrew, but we had to switch it to English, because it didn't make much sense (laughs). And that's what's on the back of our T-shirts--there's a peace sign with a sword going through it, and the verse underneath is Matthew 10:34, 'I didn't come to bring peace, but a sword.' Okay, back to Yeshua. I wrote the words meaning if you don't get it together and don't vote for Godly and moral values in our country, we're not going to have them very much longer. The first verse is more of a personal thing: 'I used to work from day to day/ I used to till the ground/ I worked for what is right/ They just want to fool around.' This is how I felt. A lot of my friends really never paid attention to the fact that if you want something in life, you have to work. If you want to raise a family, you have to work. They just want to fool around. They just want to party. They just don't care.

"The part, 'They talk about You as if You were a dog,' is about using the Lord's name in vain. They have no conscience about it. There was a verse taken out of the song--the last line was supposed to be, 'Yeshua, heal my land,' and I think it got edited out with the second verse when we were mixing it down. It just happened and nobody caught it. So when we do an album, we'll make sure it gets in. It kind of summed it up, because Christ is the answer. I wrote it and that was my heart.

"The song 'Trial By Fire' is about being purged by the flames as Christians and getting your heart right with God. We have some more bolder material as far as salvation goes. Because what had happened was that we started out as a secular band and we were doing secular shows, yet everybody knew we were Christians. And what happened is that God put it in our hearts to give our testimony, so that made us a Christian band. And all of a sudden, we were asked to do Christian shows,

Rick & J.R.

and we had never done a Christian show before."

****Are you getting well-known outside of California?**

"We've talked to a lot of people from the East Coast. A lot of our mail is from New York or New Jersey. And for some reason we've gotten a lot from Kansas City. It's like, dude, where did they find out about us?"

****Maybe Jeff Scheetz told them about you.**

"Probably. Jeff Scheetz is my BOY! Oh, man! As a matter of fact, Mel is working on his own solo album. Rex Carroll is also one of the best in Christian music. I'm into Classical music, and when I heard him, I freaked out. When I write my music, it comes out really melodic, because Classical music is really melodic. Mel's doing a solo album on the same label as Final Axe. Keith Miles is a good friend of ours--a very good brother. Roger Martinez is also a very good brother and friend of ours."

****Have you played at Sanctuary before?**

"Yeah, I have--High Desert Sanctuary in Barstow, California. We're literally right out in the middle of the desert--it got up to 107 today. I don't have to worry about my tan fading--I have a permanent tan! (laughs)"

****Where do you go to church?**

"I used to go to Sanctuary; I now go to a church called 'The Rock.' There's another Christian band there that sounds like Europe. They're really good."

****In the pop metal vein, I like TNT.**

"Yeah, Ronnie LeTekro's great, as is Alex Masi. My all-time favorite guitar player is Adrian Vandenberg."

****What about Tony MacAlpine and Vinnie Moore?**

"I'm into all that stuff. My neoclassical style of writing would sound like Vinnie Moore more than any other style, because his style is so smooth. Yeah, those are my boys. Vinnie Moore, MacAlpine, and Racer X--Paul Gilbert influenced me, too. I like Al DiMeola--I like my Jazz dudes."

****Going back to something we talked about before--how do you find being black and being conservative to be, considering that most blacks are not on the conservative end of the spectrum?**

"Especially black Christians. They're reared in that way of thinking, the Martin Luther King/Jesse Jackson attitude, and I don't mean to be rude, but they just don't have what it takes. They had good leadership to get us out of a bind maybe, as far as blacks go, like in the civil rights movement--King did really well. This is going to scare you, but I'm sorry, Nelson Mandela is a communist. And I don't welcome him in my country with his propaganda crap. I can tell. He was trained by Cuban guerrillas in combat techniques."

****Yep, and he comes over here and everybody applauds him.**

"Yeah. I'm sorry, I don't buy it. Black doesn't have anything to do with it. And I'll stand up in front of any black, like my real mother, and if I go to any of her functions, I will stand up in front of them and say, 'I'm sorry--the man is a communist and I don't believe in those values.'"

****And he also wrote an essay before he was in jail entitled "How To Be A Good Communist."**

"When you write stuff like that, you live it. You don't change from that. And I'll stand up and tell them, 'I live in a country where I'm free, and I like my democracy.' I have to admit--there are a lot of people who aren't too excited about my being a Republican and being black, but I'm sorry--too bad! Also, more importantly, I'm a Christian, and God put these things in my heart, because before, I was just like they were--the blind leading the blind. So yeah, he's a full-fledged communist. I don't support the man. I wouldn't go hear him speak. If I did, I would confront him face-to-face."

****But there are a lot of good things about South African blacks--there are a lot of Christians there.**

"Yes, there are. In fact, I've heard the testimonies of some of them and got my information from a black South African Christian."

****And they're very much against Mandela, too.**

"Oh, yeah! The press is feeding us garbage. I pay attention to half of what I hear, and I believe almost what I see. I'm very aware of that. There's a book called The Light And The Glory by Paul Marshal and David Manuel--I'm gonna turn you on to some good reading. It's American history--these are books on Christianity in America, and man, these are heavy. I mean, these books are almost like This Present Darkness, except they're not fiction; it's the real thing. This is what they don't tell you in history books. In the second book, it talks about the Christian slave getting beaten by his master and praying for his master, 'Forgive him, Father, he doesn't know that he's blinded by the adversary.' Praying for his master while being beaten--do you know that guy's reward in the Kingdom? Is that heavy, or what? It makes me say, 'Lord, thank You!!'

"I just wanted to add that these viewpoints on political issues are the opinions of J.R. Montgomery, and not necessarily those of Seventh Seal. Seventh Seal preaches Christ and Him crucified. We try to promote Godly morals and encourage people; and don't really get into these issues corporately as a band."

HM

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"Metal Midnight IV" features: Eternal Ryte, **Contagious, Final Axe, Catalyst, Ransom, Martyr, Recon**, and 3 surprise guest bands! It's in Fontana, California on 10/27. For info, call (714) 885-0895.

Deliverance, Crucified, Believer, Mad At The World, and Trytan - All hit the road next year!

Michael Elliott has left **Whitecross**, because it was too hard financially on Michael to make ends meet. It's possible that, if things work out, that he'll be able to rejoin the band on the road next year. Here's hopin'... I think he's one of the best drummers in Christian metal.

Just in case you're reading this before the **Holy Soldier** article, big news in their camp is that vocalist **Steven Patrick** has left the band. His replacement is the very ample **Eric Wayne**. In the same department (I know some of you read this section first): **Jamie Rowe** (formerly J.R.) is the new vocalist for **Guardian**, whose Pakaderm debut ought to hit the stores anyday now. And that's not all! **John Gonzalez**, who plays with **Recon**, has filled the empty drum position that Chris Hyde left in **Deliverance**. Recon might do some shows before the end of the year...

The L.A. Times reports that **Stryper** will begin headlining clubs for a short time, before hooking up with first-billed **Ratt** and third-billed **Vixen**, as part of a three-month arena-touring package. Yowza! Finally...

Driver has moved back to vocalist Rob Rock's old stomping grounds--Connecticut, where they will be headlining clubs on the East Coast (without having to pay to play). The band has packaged their latest demo, which is available via mail-order. Believe me, it kills! The quality of this project is head and shoulders of many of Christian metal's top releases--I'm serious! To order this glimpse of greatness, send $6 (plus $2 postage) to: Worldwide Records, PO Box 406, Somersville CT 06072.

Sacred Warrior's "Wicked Generation" started with a Christian Metal industry first--a major listening party in Chicago. Yours truly was flown in, as were CCM's Managing Editor Thom Granger and Harvest Rock's Paul Emery, Spring Arbor's Mike Delaney, and several buyers for mainstream record chains. The band was flown in immediately after their set at the Kingdom Bound Festival. It was held in the choice RiverNorth Studios in downtown Chicago, where the latest **Giant** record was recorded. New guitarist, **John Johnson** was there, as was former keyboardist **Rick Macias**. With the album playing loudly in the background, a good time was had by all. Hats off to Frontline for putting this kind of promotional muscle behind this top-notch release.

Finding itself on a promotional roll, Frontline has taken out full-color, full-page ads in Thrasher, Metal Maniacs, and two other secular magazines. At the bottom of the ads are trailers, which state where the album is available. The following stores are included, which stocked up on the product: Hastings; Camelot Music; Record Bar; Sound Warehouse; Tower Records; and several others.

Niklas Franklin, from the now "on hold for one year" **Leviticus**, has joined up with **Stephan Mohlin** from **Trivial** to make some new music. In other Swedish metal news, **Trinity** will record a new demo soon. **Seventh Seal**, the Swedish one--not the California one, was chosen to play Greenbelt this year. Leviticus is seeking the Lord, that their music may be from the Lord and not copies of the world. "We are called to be the head, not the tail," says guitarist Bjorn Stigsson (Deuteronomy 28:13).

Charizma is the first Christian musical group (of any kind) to sign a record contract with Russia's only record label "Meloydia Records." Now the band is returning to the Soviet Union, by popular demand, for a concert tour. They will have the opportunity to play in front of thousands of kids there every night. Pray for this incredible ministry opportunity!!! On July 14th bassist and vocalist Bosse Nicolausson married his bride--Eva Gard. There was lots of music at the wedding party, of course, where drummer Janne and guitarist Goran, with friends, played Mr. Mister's song "Broken Wings..." But, Bosse had to sing too, and at his mother's request (!) he jumped on stage in his wedding clothes and sang the classic Sweet song, "Action," which Charizma ends its shows with.

Trytan can be booked for live shows by calling Advent Productions, (815) 722-4946.

Tourniquet's Ted Kirkpatrick was interviewed for Modern Drummer magazine's January issue (hits the stands in November). They apparently keyed in on his double bass technique. Look for it in the "Update" section. The band recently debuted at #75 on the CMJ (College Music Journal) charts!

Craig Erickson, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, who you might recognize from Red Sky or his solo custom tapes, was one of the winners in Kramer Guitar's "Hot Shots" Contest!

The fourth "Metal Midnight" concert will be held at Fontana High School in Fontana, California on October 27th. On the bill this time are: headliners **Eternal Ryte**, **Contagious**, **Final Axe**, **Catalyst**, **Ransom**, **Martyr**, **Recon**, and three surprise guest bands. The concert hotline is (714) 885-0895.

Caesar Kalinowski, who produced the first Whitecross and Sacred Warrior records, formed Graceland and Intense Records, and presided over Pure Metal for about four months last Spring, has formed a new label with former Pure Metal Vice-Prez Gavin Morkel and Dave Bunker, who worked with InterLinc--an organization that hooked up youth pastors with Christian music ministries. The label is an official Word Records label. The name? "Wonderland." Look for a **Jet Circus** release anytime now, followed by **Fighter** (who supposedly sounds like Giant meets Heart). The label will feature cutting edge acts in the Metal and Alternative genres. **The Stand**, which appeared on the Big Rage! compilation, will also be on Wonderland.

Star Song, the company which bought Pure Metal, is now being run by Mike Kiel, who used to work with First-Borne Productions (who helped manage Petra's tours). This label's integrity should help bring a much-needed boost of honesty and promotion to the growing Christian metal scene. (Now there seems to be three "superpowers" in this genre--Star Song, Frontline, and Myrrh. This should be very good for the industry, because even the smaller labels, like R.E.X., Regency, and Image will benefit from the overall increased exposure of Christian metal in the mainstream and Christian markets.) **Seraiah**'s "Carnival World" will be Pure Metal/Star Song's first release, followed by "Best Of Bride," featuring two new cuts, and "The Torment" by England's **Seventh Angel**. The label plans on putting out a compilation album of several unsigned bands, most of which will be offered (at the label's option) full-length contracts if the band gets a good response. Several good bands are negotiating with the company right now for inclusion. Look for it next Spring. A new Whitecross album will be released in late Spring, along with a guitar instructional video by **Rex Carroll**.

REZ just returned from a three-week European tour, which included concert appearances in East Berlin and Poland! "The 'Open Door' policies are quickly being initiated throughout the once closed European Block countries, and it's obvious just Who is opening those doors! Album number 11 for REZ is near completion, and is scheduled for release sometime in early 1991.

Cryer has been working on its debut album. For info, write: PO Box 677665, Orlando FL 32867.

Sekel, the Puerto Rican thrash band, has relocated to the USA and is looking for a new guitarist. Interested parties write: c/o Rob Wynter, 40 West Central St, Apt 7, Natick MA 01760.

In hip Alternative news, **Daniel Amos** is releasing a live album on CD and cassette, entitled "Live Bootleg '82," which features stuff from the "Alarma" and "Doppleganger" era. Also, **Adam Again** is releasing "In A New World Of Time" (hands down their best album, in my opinion!) on CD, along with three bonus tracks never before released.

Overdrive is going into the studio to record a heavier 4-song EP. They just added a new bassist, Bill Goodwin (formerly of Holy Sacrifice).

Bride has a new drummer--Jerry McBroom. The band will not be performing any more live shows this year, as it works on its new sound with new personnel. "The lyrics on our new material is a lot more straightforward," says vocalist Dale Thompson, "with fewer parables. Our main objective is to write songs that will be inspirational to the lost and the saved."

Legacy, who was featured on "Heavy Righteous Metal Chapter II," is searching for an "on fire" lead guitarist to complete the band. They just signed up to be one of the band's on Star Song's upcoming compilation album. Interested parties write: PO Box 266, Westerville OH 43081.

Israel is a four-piece metal band from Sweden that's been playing together for 4 and a half years... That doesn't sound that remarkable, does it? How about the fact that the age of the band members are 14, 12, 16, and 14?!? These four youngsters are working

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on a demo, which you'll read about here. For info, write: Israel, Krokusvagen 5, 7, S-51600 Dalsjofors, Sweden.

Torn Flesh is working on an album for Talking Town Records. Tentatively titled, "Auricular Suffrage," it will sport 14 songs, featuring a nine-song collection called "Trilogy Of The Damned." Look for more speed metal and less punk styling on this one. Jim Brown has left the band, being replaced by Jon Garee on the double bass drums.

Those into the rap vibe might want to pick up a copy of "Yo! Ho-Ho," a Christmas rap album with DC Talk, ETW, Steven Wiley, D-Boy, MC GE GEE, and True MC. You know what? Someone ought to put out an all-rap 'zine. It would be fun, not too terribly hard to do, and provide some neat edification to the growing rap culture.

Those who have not received orders that they placed with Mailbox Music should have by now. This mail-order company went out of business, "because I was losing too much money," says the company president. "I will be fulfilling those orders that came in before we closed business for the next two to three months." Anyone not serviced their orders may wish to send a postcard detailing their order (including name, address, and phone number) to Heaven's Metal, which I will forward to the company.

Regency is making available a killer poster of the artwork for its "Classic Metal" album for $3.95 (plus $1 postage).

Latter Reign is a band fronted by guitarist Ryan Cain, who used to play in Holy Soldier. Some may recognize vocalist Luis Cardenas from his solo release, "Animal In stinct," on which he played drums. Unlike most bands, when Latter Reign completes their demo they don't plan on shopping major labels. "We don't want to shop other labels for the fact that we would have to compromise with them," said Luis. Latter Reign wants to start their own label. (Thanks to Paul Jendrasiak for sharing this info on Latter Reign with us!)

Those wishing to minister to a prisoner may want to write: Byron C. Myers, E-26677, 1-A4-01, PO Box W, Represa CA 95671.

The New Union, a happenin' club in Minneapolis, Minnesota that features Christian bands every weekend, wants to sell custom tapes, magazines, etc. Those interested (in playing also) contact Steve Baker at: 507 E Hennepin Ave, Minneapolis MN 55414; or call (612) 379-2858.

Another Christian cafe that books lots of bands in Bedford, Indiana is willing to book your band! Call Stacy Strunk at (812) 275-1919.

Laine Blomeke, who many of you long-time Heaven's Metal readers may recognize (He had a band called Blind Beggar in Florida), has been doing missionary work abroad. He and his band are doing lots of jamming and preaching and seeing hundreds of people giving their lives to Christ!

Night Vision is a one hour weekly Christian music video show on the Keystone Satellite Network. If your band has some videos that you want to see aired, contact the Saltmine Entertainment Group at: PO Box 98152, Lubbock TX 79499; or call (806) 796-1304.

Huck Thompson's radio show, "Huck's Heavy," was cancelled from the secular station, because he wouldn't play bands like Motley Crue, Judas Priest, etc.

Here's a listing of some of the recent metal and hard rock bands available from Spring Arbor: Avion (their live tape); Blackhouse (several albums of industrial stuff); Catalyst; Chosen Stranger; Divine Right; Double Edge; Fair Exchange; Jet Circus (limited quantities of the German pressing CD and cassette); Knightriot; The Lead ("Return Fire" and "Automoloch"); Martyr ("Death Is Dead"); Larry Norman (limited quantities of his "Live At Flevo With Q-Stone" CD and cassette); Royal Blood; Sacrament (their "Presumed Dead" demo); Scarlet Rayne; Straightway; Thresher ("Totally Possessed"); "Cool Tunes"; "White Metal Invasion"; Xalt; and Zion. If you want any of this stuff, just go to your Christian bookstore and say, "I'd like to special order the following from Spring Arbor..." and you should have it in less than a week.

That's all the news for this issue. For up-to-date news in between issues, be sure and check out my "On The Beat" Metal news column every month in CCM. HM

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Recommendations this issue go to: Sacred Warrior; Bride; Creed; Seventh Angel; Barren Cross (both releases); David Zaffiro; Living Sacrifice; and Sardonyx. If you don't see an address for ordering in the review, that means it's supposed to be available in your local Christian bookstore.

"WICKED GENERATION"
- SACRED WARRIOR

Okay boys and girls, Sacred Warrior is back, ready to bring the walls down with their brand of metal! Anyone who has ever heard or seen this band will agree that these "vatos" are very excellent musicians, and with this album they've proven to have gotten even better and tighter!

This new effort is more of a concept album containing three characters: a newly-saved Christian, a young man who gets saved during the story, and a girl who is trying to walk the imaginary line between the two.

Lead vocalist Rey Parra gives an excellent performance with his powerful vocals with a slight Geoff Tate (Queensryche) flavor--adding a plus. Bruce Swift does some very well done guitar work, which just so happens to dominate the album (kind of a return to the aggressive, straight-ahead metal of "Rebellion"). Tony Velazquez once again shows his talent as a drummer, with Steve Watkins holding down the rhythm section.

This is a definite must for the headbanger in you! Orale Vatos! (You'll have to excuse Joey. I think this is some sort of the Mexican bonding thing you hear about.--ed)

--Joey Knight

"THE TORMENT" - SEVENTH ANGEL

Star Song now has Pure Metal Records, and has now acquired from England a tight mosh unit known as Seventh Angel (and there was much rejoicing!). Because of the musical style and singer Ian Arkley's gravelly delivery, comparisons to Vengeance are inevitable. But S.A. has developed a unique creativity that effectively establishes the band as one of the top heavy hitters in the Christian field. "The Torment" deals with the darker side of spiritual issues, including abortion (**Dr. Hatchet**), lusts of the flesh (**Forbidden Desires**), Satan (**The Charmer**), Christian cussing (**Expletive Deleted**), and being imprisoned for the faith (**Locked Up In Chains**). Heavy stuff musically and lyrically. "Her existence a gift by the nail-pierced hands/ the struggles never ending/ haunting her every breath/ her witness arose in a cold and desolate land/ her faith so strong defying death..." (**Katie**). There's a cool acoustic part in **Eye Of The Needle**.

All rockers, moshers, thrashers, and metalheads must check out Seventh Angel! This is totally SOLID!

--I.B. Willis

"ROCK POWER PRAISE: THE HYMNS"

When do the Elefante brothers have time to sleep? I'm still trying to recover from the great Mastedon album they recently released, and now they're back with another mark of excellence.

This album is just what the title says, "Rock Power Praise!" They've taken old hymns and have rejuvenated them with hard rocking arrangements.

John and Dino have once again packed an album with great talent! Helping out are Mike Lee (formerly of Barren Cross), Jamie Rowe (new lead singer for Guardian) and if my ears do not deceive me, guitarist extraordinare Tony Palacios (also of Guardian)! There are many other musicians and singers lending their excellent talent to this great project!

I highly recommend this album--not only because of the musicians and the rock and roll, but because these are great songs to lift and praise our wonderful God with our hearts, minds, and lips! I applaud John and Dino in their effort to put out their best for God!

--Joey Knight

"IN SCARLET STORM" - DAVID ZAFFIRO

Guitar virtuoso and world-renown axeman David Zaffiro does it again! Man, where does this guy's creativity end? He cranked out the best with Bloodgood, and now shows his arena of style hasn't even begun to be tapped.

"In Scarlet Storm" picks up where "The Other Side" left off, and he doesn't even miss a beat. It seems the maturity of his music deepens, parallel to his never-ending search for a deeper maturity in the knowledge and revelation of God's truths. The intensity of that search is evident throughout the album as you identify with the vulnerability the emotion, and the human frailty that surfaces as we deal with the turmoil and storms that life brings. But, as always, God brings healing and carries us through it all. The guitar he plays and the music he brings give you that little extra boost, saying, "Hey man, it's okay. Just let it go. Give it to God, and He'll take care of the rest."

The technical ingenuity of this album shows David Zaffiro can methodically set the mood and still leave a smoldering trail of blazing heavy metal to help burn it on your heart. In comparison to "The Other Side", which was about 30% heavy, 90% of "In Scarlet Storm" sets a serious guitar shreddin' blaze that sets the pace for those that like it pretty heavy. Experience the power of "In Scarlet Storm," and you're in for a journey you'll not soon forget.

--Steven "Smash" White

"ROCK FOR THE KING" (Remix)
- BARREN CROSS

Have you wondered how the production of secular genius Ronnie Montrose might have an effect on Barren Cross's classic debut album? I sure was. The differences between this one and the original were hard to pick up at first, but definitely there. I've found that many of the songs, like **Dying Day**, sound a little thicker and beefier this time.

Some of the Toms are more pronounced in **He Loves You**. The guitar tones in the solo are a little bit tastier. **It's All Come True** has quite a few changes. The cymbal dance intro is missing and the separation is a little sparse. The original sounds better in this case.

The drum intro to **Believe** is put through intense reverb or something, as is the vocals, holding back the original passion of the first.

In **Going Nowhere**, the Taurus Pedals are turned down a bit during the intro and a slight reverb is added to the scream during the beginning speed-up portion. A little snap is added this way.

Some of the reverb in the intro crunches of **Rock For The King** were held back, snapping the pace up a notch. The gang choruses sound a little more realistic, verses the huge, Kiss-style BGV's of the original. This one's better.

Some effects are added to Mike Lee's voice during **Give Your Life**, making it sound better. The time gap between **Give Your Life** and **Just A Touch** was widened, as was the separation between speakers on Mike's vocal tracks. Ray's original guitar tones are allowed more room to breathe here. This version's better.

A shortened intro begins **Light The Flame**, and Mike's voice is put through a filter that makes him sound a little raspier. His vocals on the chorus are padded down, restricting a passionate performance. Definitely a cleaner version, but it lost some of the magic of the first. Ray's tones on the solo seem cleaner, yet he too loses some of the passion he originally put in the solo.

When I add things up, six out of nine songs were improved this time--making it a winner.

Besides several songs that received good medical treatment, the CD features six bonus live tracks from the "Atomic Arena" tour, including **Deadlock** (primo version), **Killers Of The Unborn**, **Cultic Regimes**, **Living Dead**, **Heaven Or Nothing** (Oh yes! Yes, yes!!), and **He Loves You**.

Definitely worth your purchase. The cassette only features two bonus live cuts, so if you've been putting off the purchase of a CD player, this is a good excuse to get one.

--Doug Van Pelt

"HOTTER THAN HELL/LIVE"
- BARREN CROSS

Barren Cross, one of the baddest heavy metal groups of all time, has released a live album, and this dude totally rocks! Titled "Hotter Than Hell Live," Barren Cross shows the world what they do best, and that's crankin' out the best straight-ahead power metal that's ever been written. I can't help but believe Barren Cross is truly the best of the best (It sounds like you like this album, Steve--ed). In my opinion, they totally, single-handedly could and should be dominating the secular metal charts as well. My question is: Why haven't they received the publicity, the attention, or the respect that they've earned and most definitely deserve? Basically, this is a true representation of being hated by the

world for serving Jesus Christ. It'll cost you your life.

This 14-song release was recorded during the "Atomic Arena" tour, but has some of the band's original hits from the "Rock For The King" days as well. Barren Cross is famous for complex time changes, usually involving acoustic and electric guitar leads, and there are plenty enough for you to drool over on this one; as is evident in **Close To The Edge**, **King Of Kings**, and **In The Eye Of The Fire**. They gift us with a rendition of **Opus To The Third Heaven**, and a special get-down-and-jam session centered around the song **King Jesus**. Also, plenty of exhortations and encouragement between songs as well. As a whole, production quality and the sound mix for this live album is exceptional. Simply put, you're missing out if you don't get it. So hurry up and go get you a copy of the killer concert, and keep up the prayers for Barren Cross, because they're definitely one of our best.

--Steven "Smash" White

"SIGN OF VICTORY" - CREED

This German band has been at their Christian metal ministry for several years now, and it's paying off! These guys have released a very credible heavy melodic metal album. Produced by England's Norman Barrat, this 10-song collection establishes the band as a valuable foreign import. The American bands better watch out!

Like fellow-countrymen The Scorpions, vocalist Jessy Baron's accent sets him apart with a unique musical flavor. While not exactly on the same par musically with The Scorps (and who is?), these boys are well on their way (If it only takes them two more albums to write an album like "In Trance", the body of Christ is in for a real treat!).

One of the album's highlights, **Forever On Fire**, shows off the power and commercial edge of the band, as well as the classy range of Jessy Baron. **In The Dark** closes off the album with a barn-burner, showing the skills of guitarist Udo Libutzkij.

Check this band out!

--Doug Van Pelt

BRIDE - (Demo #3)

After three in-your-face metal albums, Bride has released this four-song demo full of surprises. The first song, **Pyramid Club**, dealing with lust, carries a Rolling Stones feel (whoa!); followed by **Sweet Louise**, and upbeat ballad that reminds me of early Kix--just good, easy Rock 'n' Roll. The guitar solo could easily have been done by G 'n' R's Slash (!). **Young Love**, the third song, is a moderate rocker that could easily make it in today's bar-mentality rock arena. It's got a cool, catchy chorus.

Rounding out the project is a real surprise: a hypnotic, heart-grabbing ballad called I Miss The Rain, which I can't stop listening to. I could just cry over these lyrics. Pure genius. If this were marketed through radio and secular retail, response would be HUGE. This song reveals Dale Thompson's non-raspy side...and wins my respect in a major way. Way to go, Bride.

For ordering info, write: Rt. 1, 295 Churchview Rd, Westpoint KY 40177.

--John Wilson

"NO YIELDING TO UNGODLY" - LIVING SACRIFICE

If you've heard Believer, then you know what good thrash is. Well, here's more. Snide-sounding rhythms and immaculate time changes are the mode, with a lead vocal style that shows no small amount of hardcore influence. Almost too fast for perception, these three songs blast through the issues of prophets of false doctrine (**Haven Of Blasphemy**), the reality and experience of Hell (**Second Death**), and single-minded faith (**Progressive Change**).

This is serious thrash that no true mosher can pass up--so don't. To order, send $3 to: PO Box 45892, Little Rock AR 72214.

--John Wilson

FAIR EXCHANGE - (Demo)

Move over Europe. Move over Journey. Here comes Fair Exchange, a dynamic five-piece from Buena Park, California with a BIG commercial sound. Just about every cut on this album belongs on MTV. Keyboards, guitar effects, backup vocals, vocal layering, it's all there. The feel is positive, in general, with quite a few songs directed toward God's relationship with us, from His perspective.

Bright production and packaging bring this project to completion. I recommend this music for anyone who enjoys exhilarating, yet non-threatening music. They're a noteworthy, relatable pop outfit. For ordering info, write: PO Box 21, Buena Park CA 90621.

--John Wilson

"REBEL OF REASON" - SARDONYX

Once in a while a truly phenomenal metal project will pop out and flex its muscles. Pennsylvania's Sardonyx is the latest--and maybe the very best. With dead-accurate lyrics and tough, intricate rhythms fueled by technical drumming, these four guys carry a heavy groove in the vein of King Diamond and Tourniquet. The only pitfall here is the great (not excellent) vocals. They're almost perfect, but a touch more aggression would be nice. On a scale of one-to-ten, the vocals are about 8 and a half; everything else is a 20!

Lyrically, this band pulls no punches. **Scandal**, **Don't Chase The Rainbow**, **Bloodshed**, and **Rebel Of Reason** are all strongly convicting and full of scripture references, dealing with impurity, suicide, Christ's substitutions death, and unbelief, respectively. Each song's lyrics has a paragraph preceding them to explain its meaning and intent. Very responsible.

Sardonyx is hot. Don't miss 'em. To order, send $6.50 to: PO Box 219, McAlisterville PA 17049.

--John Wilson

BORDERLINE (7" Single)

Another high-quality melodic metal band from Sweden unleashes its artistic prowess on this 45. They won a big secular band competition, where the first prize was a 7" recording. So, here it is! The A-Side, **FRI** (meaning "free" in Swedish, which makes sense), is a good song sung in Swedish. (Give this one to a rocker who says, "I never listen to the words...") Nice and heavy, yet very commercial. Good mix of guitars, vocal harmonies, keyboards, and lead vocals.

Calling, the B-Side, is a very good tune--showing the talent of this band in a way that us English-speakers can understand.

To order, send $7 (cash only!) to: Borderline, Lundg. 223, S-566 00 HABO, Sweden. To book the band, contact: Metal Cross Productions, Hallmansv. 26, S-552 59 Jonkoping, Sweden (Phone 46 36168556).

--Doug Van Pelt

D.O.N. (DEGRADATION OF A NATION)

Missouri's D.O.N. shows here that there are still thrash bands that know how to use rage constructively. This band is obviously highly influenced by Nobody Special (which automatically merits five stars in my book), and they admitted it in the lyrics! Way cool!!

I listen to the particulars, such as vocal diversity and how well complex arrangements come together, and D.O.N. delivers; each lead vocal line during most "choruses" is performed with just the right combination of inflection, aggression, and deliberateness. The outcome is riveting. Excellent, frank lyrics and an intense rhythm section complete this underground project, best compared with Suicidal Tendencies.

D.O.N., like Torn Flesh and Nobody Special, proves not to be another boring thrash band, but rather a band that knows diversity. I am so pleased with this! Tour, boys! Take note, labels! I wanna hear more! Louder!!

For ordering info, write: c/o CRUSADE, 8 NW 67th St, Gladstone MO 64118.

--John Wilson

"PAID IN FULL" - RANSOM

I really like the name of this band (ha! This is not the same Ransom signed to Frontline--ed). Ransom is a five-piece band. The fifth element here being keyboards. Don't jump to conclusions here, it doesn't mean they play "techno-rock". The first song, entitled **Business As Usual**, lets you know that right away. The lead guitar is strong and forward and the keyboards compliment the rhythm and lead guitars.

I liked the song **Nostalgia For The Infinite** a lot. Does anyone remember a band called Fireworks? The sound reminds me of a track off of **Sightseeing At Night** by them called **Incognito**. The lyrics are strong and meaningful and vocalized by Paul Galante. I was impressed with the overall sound of this band and the up-front message in the lyrics. The production here was a lot better than I expected.

This tape would make a nice addition to any rocker's collection, so check it out. You won't be disappointed. To order, send $7 to: PO Box 447, Jim Thorpe PA 18229.

--Nelson Myers

"WE CAST OUT THE DEVIL" - CHRISTIAN IMAGE

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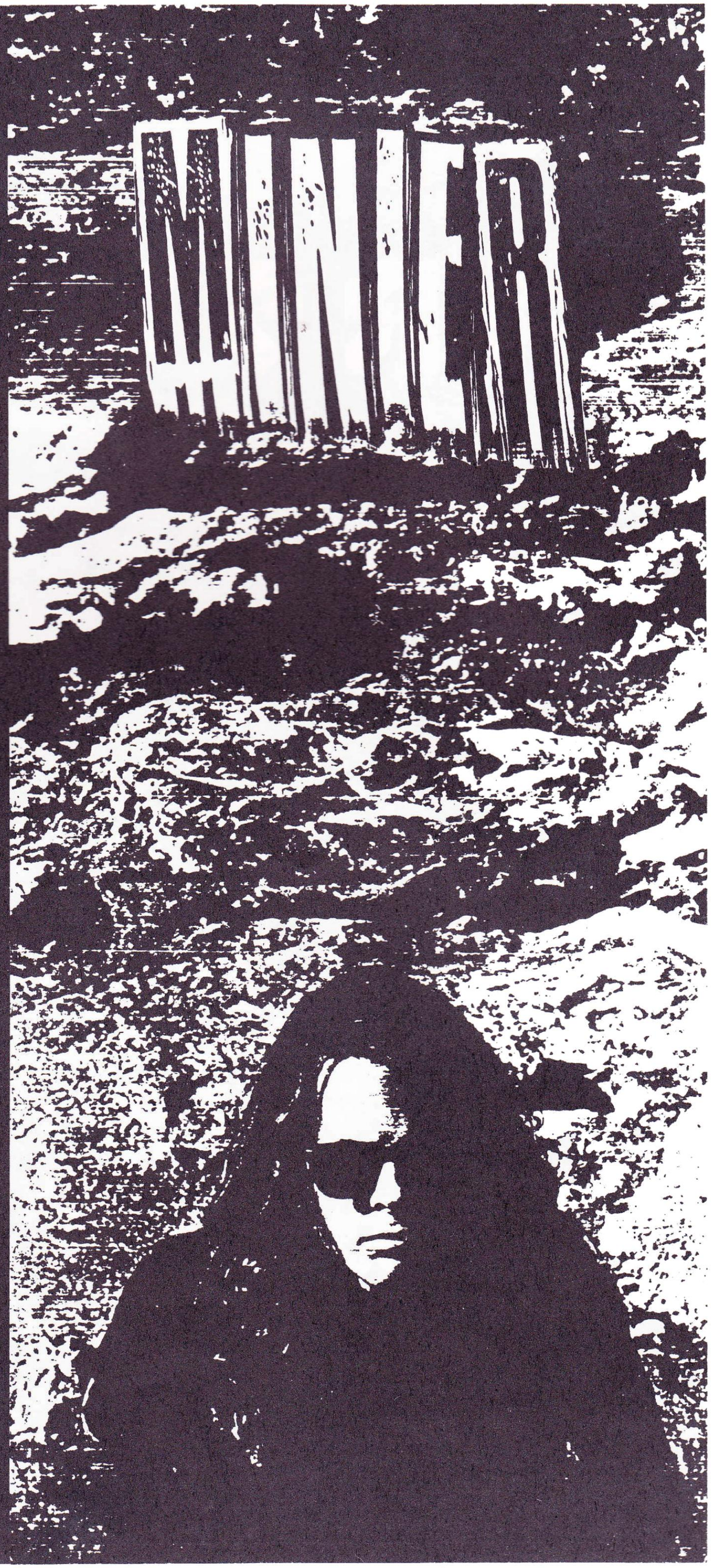

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R.E.X. RECORDS

Christian Image, a psychedelic mass of energy from Amsterdam, Holland (a.k.a. Sin City), who hold nothing back when creating their unique sound.

The tape begins with an intriguing swell of strange noise (a definite plus in itself), then swiftly moves on to its core, a complex range of rhythms bordering on Industrial--quite an adventurous move...which makes this an instant collector's item (I suppose).

Female vocalist style hints at those of Grace Slick, Grace Jones, and Rosanna of Rosanna's Raiders, complimenting a musical entourage predominantly consisting of keyboard effects. Lyrics are thrown in here and there, or in some cases spoken over the music, all in a rather off-handed way, yet not thoughtlessly (characteristic of this style).

Due to the prevalence of keyboard overtones, this project may not appeal to the average metalhead--oops, I mean to every distinguished Heaven's Metal reader. Fans (former ones, I hope) of early Bowie, early Berlin, or the Kingdom's scaterd-few will delve passionately into this work of neurosis. Ya gotta love it.

To order, send $5 (cash) to: PO Box 11516, 1001GM Amsterdam, Holland.

--John Wilson

"DESTINATION OVERDRIVE" - SANXTION

Sanxtion, hailing from Pittsburgh, come off strong (musically) on this effort. The only problem I have with it is the vocals. Vocalist Kevin Michael lacks strength, control, and pitch. The band as a whole is a very hot band! Solid rhythm section, with a shredder of a guitarist by the name of Pete Rossi.

The only thing I see holding this heavy metal band back is the vocals. There is a lot of potential in this group, but lets remember guys: the Christian listening audience is no longer settling for mediocrity. So let's work on it and put out the prime!

To order, send $6 (plus $1.50 shipping/ Checks made out to Peter and Tony Rossi) to: Pete Rossi, 9400 David Dr, Pittsburgh PA 15237.

--Joey Knight

R.O.C.K. - (Demo)

Coming at ya from the Dallas/Ft. Worth metroplex is a band called R.O.C.K., an acronym for Revolution Of Christian Knights...and rock is what they do quite well. Totally awesome guitar shreddin' lays an excellent foundation for the lead vocalist to proclaim loud 'n' clear: "We are the ones who will fight you/ and we will make a stand/ We've no need to fear/ for in Jesus we're taking command..." (Give It All); and "Lord, take the scales from our eyes/ so that we may see with spiritual eyes/ too blind to see that the Lord's army was right by me...so I got a second wind/ and got right up...now I'm ready to fight." (Shield Of Faith). With a message like that, surrounded by wall-to-wall "attack" guitars, how can any sword be left undrawn?

For ordering info, write: 710 Simmons Dr, Euless TX 76040.

--Steven "Smash" White

PARIS RED - (Demo)

Commercial metal with energy, yet lacking the songwriting and production the band could use to break out nationally. Maurice Mangum's vocals do a good job of piercing the rest of the mix with a clean sound. He sounds a lot like Michael "I can sing higher!" Sweet during Amazing Grace.

These guys must be pretty hot live, because they cut some deep grooves here (Hook City). Very reminiscent and comparable to Divine Right's custom commercial material. I'm betting that these guys can produce something much better than the material on this tape. Keep at it guys, I think you've got something good going!

For ordering info, write: PO Box 37355, Raleigh NC 27627.

--Doug Van Pelt

THE PERSECUTED - (Demo)

Here's some way-cool punk thrash. Wild, wailing rhythms with excellent "scream 'em in your face" vocals by Just Plain John. This tape is lots of fun. The band knows music, so the songs feel like they go somewhere (most of the time). There's even some bird noises on this tape...wow! Fans of Sanctified Noise and Blairing Out should get a slight kick out of this one.

To order, send $3 to: 1723 SW Parkway, Wichita Falls TX 76302.

--Doug Van Pelt

"HARD KNOCKS FOR HARD HEADS" - CRASH DOG

For those of you waiting for Spike Nard to do something musically, the time is up. These guys, who smashed a watermelon Satan head on stage at Cornerstone this year, crank out an energetic street punk style worthy of your listen. Spike sings a pretty clear talk/sing vocal style, and plays a mean harmonica on Dream So Vain. Mommy's Little Anarchist makes a humorous point to those playing the punk game: "You paint circle-A's on the can/ but you still take out the trash/ You hate the government/ but you still accept cash."

Dog Eat Dog starts out with a cool solo guitar hook, sounding like it was fun to play. Steal Your Soul sounds like classic REZ. (Jim Denton did play rhythm guitar on every song...maybe that's why).

For ordering info, write Spike Nard at: 4707 N Malden, Chicago IL 60640.

--Doug Van Pelt

FASHION DEATH - (Demo)

Now here's the tape we've all been waiting for: Well, maybe not. It is a humorous thrash effort, complete with pencil-drawn cassette insert. Okay, these jokesters have put out a fun, garage-level tape. The songs actually have some decent progression and speed feel to 'em that will satisfy (or maybe just tease) most moshers. Check out Sunday School Cool.

For ordering info, write this (I don't wanna be bogus) dude: David A. Smith, 13240 Carpenter St, Omaha NE 68138-4320.

--Doug Van Pelt

"MORBID REALITY" - HEIRBORNE

Okay, okay now. All you thrash mongers, your attention please: "Strap your boots on tight/ set your armor secure/ hold your shield to fight/ grasp your sword without fear/ let your anger heat up, 'cause the battle is near/ Satan is the disease/ and we're the cure." (Behind Enemy Lines).

Heirborne's Nyk Edinger screams, "Your friends said they'd stick with you through thick & thin/ they smiled as they watched you commit your deadly sins/ 'Eternal hell's a fable'/ that's what they said/ where are they now, as you burn in...HELL?" (Morbid Reality).

Hard-lined? Maybe a little hardcore? Naahh! Although production quality is a little lacking, these guys are definitely staking out their claims in the world of screaming hardcore thrash. Kinda reminds you of old Saint. Get a copy for you and one for that metal maniac who needs to know the fear of the Lord. (And for you John Rambo warriors, make sure you don't take off without your angels.)

To order, send $7 (overseas add $2 postage) to: 213 S Jeffreys, Pleasant Hill MO 64080.

--Steven "Smash" White

FRONTLINE - (Demo)

Anyone out there old enough to remember the likes of Molly Hatchet, Blackfoot, and (of course) Lynyrd Skynyrd? Well, I do! Frontline has not only captured the Southern Rock sound, but these guys are "Southern Fried Rock!" What I like about this group is that they're not trying to reach in creating their sound; but they are the sound. It all sounds natural and straight-ahead. I believe all music should be approached in this manner.

Seeing how this is a demo effort, the quality isn't up to par, but you can easily tell that these guys are a great sounding live band! There's a lot of heart in their playing, and that is saying a lot!

Great job guys. I look forward to hearing what you can do with a bigger budget! For ordering info, write: PO Box 3371, Pikeville KY 41501.

--Joey Knight

STONE VENGEANCE

This full-length cassette features 10 songs from these extremely heavy musicians. Included is a re-recorded version of To Kill Evil, from their EP of the same name. There's a lot of real thrash/speed attitude and savage delivery here.

Adding a new dimension to the band is the inclusion of a slow tune called Pain. Overall, this collection shows a very tight and creative unit. Metalheads who remember the original Tempest and earlier material by Stone Vengeance will be glad they're back.

To order, send $10 to: Michael Coffey, PO Box 880153, San Francisco CA 94188-0153.

--Doug Van Pelt

ST. ASYLEM - (Demo)

Good, fun rockin! Energetic, tight melodic metal like early Van Halen; but not with the cutting edge delivery compared to those boys (a little loose and sloppy in places). There's some good double-bass drumming. The guitar leads are sufficient--not real creative, but show some technical skill.

Woe To The Wicked is a good example of the potential and pitfalls of this band. The verses have a mighty fine hook, but when the chorus hits (where most often the biggest hook is supposed to grab ya), the song pummels on.

To order this 4-song, well-packaged custom tape, send $5.50 to: Joey Edwards, 6110 E 5th St #219, Tucson AZ 85711.

--Doug Van Pelt

"TESTIMONY OF FAITH" - DECISION D

Good, bass-heavy thrash with rough-shod vocals. The title track simply communicates the truth of the trinity and salvation. **Dr. DNA** is almost comical in its delivery, "I like to play with DNA." Musically, this reminds me of The Lead's early material (stuff Julio took charge of): no grooves, just real fast hardcore. Some pretty decent lead playing is heard here by Daniel Bootsma.

One song of great notice is Requiem, which starts off with some screamin' classical scales a la Rex Carroll, before jumping into full speed mosh.

For ordering info, write: God's Pleasure, PO Box 762, 3500 AT Utrecht, The Netherlands.

--Doug Van Pelt

"CLASSIC METAL" - Various

Regency went back into its three year old vaults to pull out some debut material from bands who went on to bigger and better things. Pretty good idea!

Featured are: Mastedon, with **Wasn't It Love**; Guardian, with **Marching On**, and **Spiritual Warfare**; Believer, with **The Chosen**; Rage Of Angels, with **Don't Give Up**, and **Do You Still Believe In Love?**; Deliverance, with **Attack**--a concert favorite; The Lead, with Tunnel Vision; Soldier, who since broke up, with **Tears**; and Arsenal, who's debut album with Regency hits anyday now, with **Stand Strong**.

For those who don't have the "California Metal" albums, "East Coast Metal", and Rage Of Angel's debut album; this is something you need to hear.

--Doug Van Pelt

"SCREAM BLOODY MURDER" - ROYAL ANGUISH

Another bass-heavy thrash band arrives, this time with poor production. The youth of the band shows in the garage-style songwriting of these five tunes. Lyrically, the band has some things to sing about: Drugs--"Your brain's like a skillet/ Your cells are all fried." (influenced by the "This is your brain on drugs" commercial?!?); and abortion--"Doctor injects the needle into the womb/ For which baby will be his living tomb."

Listening to their debut on the custom label--Sandy Pattie Records (ha!) might give you the headache it gave me. Beware! Keep practicing guys.

To order, send $6 to: MC Knowles, 332 NW 35th St, Boca Raton FL 33431.

--Doug Van Pelt

DREAMER - (Demo)

This tape showcases the latest band that Dan McCabe (ex-Daniel Band vocalist) is singing for. Dreamer has been negotiating with a label that shall remain nameless (let's just say they have an image to maintain), so this demo might not be for sale anymore.

The tunes sound like the best that Daniel Band put out, focusing in the heavy melodic direction rather than repetitious anthems. The youth of the band should really keep this band on a good track. For ordering info, write: 14 Barnes Dr, Ajax, Ontario, CANADA, L1S-5C5.

--Doug Van Pelt

"PARADISE" - DISCIPLE

A new five-piece band from Sweden offers three songs on this demo: **Shout**, a melodic anthem; **I Feel Paradise**, a notable upbeat rocker highlighted by well-orchestrated backup vocals; and **Not Even Death Will Do Us Part**, a beautiful harmonious piano ballad that left me with a feeling of security and reassurance.

Good material. I'd like to hear more. To order, send $6 (cash) to: Disciple, c/o Robert Carlsson, Skieryd, S-57195 Nassjo, Sweden.

--John Wilson

"SPEED THRASH BASS GUITAR VIDEO" - ROGER DALE MARTIN

The man who "hammers down" for Vengeance Rising has decided to clue in all prospective bass players how to do it--fast. (Tabliture with explanetory drawings is included) He takes about 20 licks and walks through them with an explanation, a normal (fast) performance, and a slowed-down performance, so one can see how it's done close up. It's "down home" and personal, which might make for a more casual learning experience. It looks like the entire session was shot in one take, instead of editing together perfect takes; leaving pauses and instructions of, "Zoom in on my picking hand, honey," to his wife. You can even hear a phone ring and their baby cry at one point. So, you can see it's not the slick extraveganza that a record or musical equipment company might put out, but it gets the job done.

At the end of the video Roger stops and shares a little bit from the Word, concerning where he's coming from as a player and a person--which adds another dimension to the package, making it a ministry tool for your lost bass player buddies.

To order, send $19.95 (plus $3 postage) to: PO Box 4130, Redondo Beach CA 90278-8330.

--Doug Van Pelt

CONCERT REVIEWS

"UPON THIS ROCK" (Festival)
Karlsdorf, West Germany

This summer many different Christian music festivals took place all over the United States. There was Cornerstone, Creation, Sonshine, AtlantaFest, Jesus Northwest, and Kingdom Bound. There is no doubt that Christian concerts were abounding this summer. But why should America have all the good music? I am in the Air Force stationed in Kaiserslautern, West Germany and I am a big fan of Christian rock. Unfortunately, concerts come around here only once in a while. But, this summer Germany got in on the action. On August 11, Upon This Rock came to town!

The place was Karlsdorf, at a center called Altenburghalle. German concerts have no seating, so there were people standing everywhere. There were about 4,000 Germans and Americans. The concert began at 3 pm with **Q-Stone**, a Blues/Rock band from Finland. **Larry Norman** came on and played half his set with just an acoustic guitar, and the second half with some members of Q-Stone. He played his classics, like **Why Don't You Look Into Jesus?**, and **I Wish We'd All Been Ready**, and also played an interesting version of The Beatles' **Twist And Shout**.

DC Talk was up next. Germans aren't all that familiar to Rap, so I was curious what the crowd would be like. They played their very energetic set, including their version of **Lean On Me**, and the crowd enjoyed this new sound.

When **REZ** took the stage, the crowd went wild. They played songs mainly from "Silence Screams" and "Innocent Blood." After their set, Glenn Kaiser had everyone sit down on the floor while he gave his message. The crowd was very quiet and attentive to what he had to say.

Between each of the acts, there was a long intermission, and some dance and mime shows. It was getting late, and it wasn't quite over yet. **Darrell Mansfield** played next, from his albums "The Vision" and "Revelation." He was joined on stage by Glenn Kaiser and they played from their "Trimmed And Burning" album. **Larry Howard** came on and they all played an hour of straight Blues music. They ended with a Christian version of **Stand By Me**.

Whitecross was the final act and they came on about 1 am. Even though it was a long day, the crowd was as hyper as ever! This was the first time I had seen the Whitecross with the new members--Rick and Michael. I was really impressed with the energy of the drummer, Michael Elliott. Not only was he fun to watch as he played, but he also shared with the audience, something not too many drummers do. Of course, Scott Wenzel had his Bible open, speaking the Word. They finished at 2:30 am.

August 11 was a great day for me, and it made being away from home a little easier. I would like to thank all the bands who took time to come out here to Europe and play for us. You made some guys from Kaiserslautern very happy!!

--Ron Coia

Terry blindfolded (Photo by Kirk J. Crippens 777)

HOLY SOLDIER

Austin, TX Sept. 12th

The Back Room club has featured live Rock and Roll every night for as long as I can remember. But this night saw the first all-Christian line-up that the club had seen. Typical of a club, the first band, **The Cry**, hit the stage at 9:45 and proceeded to mesmerize the crowd with their unique blend of Alternative and Roots Rock and Roll. You may remember The Cry for winning the New Band Showcase at Cornerstone '89.

Then came San Antonio's **Paradox**, which displayed some new material in their powerful and LOUD 45-minute set. The new stuff has some quiet, creative, ethereal moods and then bombasts into some bone crushing Crunch with forays into speed.

And then at midnight **Holy Soldier** took and shook the stage, opening with **Stranger**. All the elements that make Holy Soldier successful were in place. The great double guitar attack of Jamie Cramer and Michael Cutting; Terry Russell pounding the drums and twirling sticks; Andy Robbins laying down the bass foundation; and new singer Eric Wayne, who not only filled Steven Patrick's shoes, but he took the band to new heights live. The band played skillfully through all the tunes on their debut album, pausing briefly for flashy solos from both guitarists.

The highlights include the ballads **Eyes Of Innocence** and **Pain Inside Of Me**, which allowed the background vocals and Eric's emotive delivery to shine. But the band also rocked hard on **Cry Out For Love**, **See No Evil**, and **We Are Young, We Are Strong**, which had everyone shouting along to the hook-laden choruses. Terry's drum solo is quickly becoming a trademark, as he plays blindfolded, and then with big plastic bats. For an encore, Holy Soldier rocked through **Tear Down The Walls** with all the fist-pumping energy that a metal concert demands.

Although, because of the club setting, they did not talk much between songs, the tunes themselves spoke about the Truth loud and clear. Holy Soldier has got the hooks, the looks, and they know Who they believe in. "Jesus is all we really need. He can release us and set the captives free. Tear down the walls!!!"

--I.B. Willis

STEVIE & THE SAINTS

CONT'D:

being where he's supposed to be is a real blessing in the midst of a recording industry, where he sees "a real lack of loyalty and honor."

Once the new album comes out, hopefully some live interest will generate, and we'll be able to see this band tear it up on the road.

Those of you who have read about Stevie in the past may recall the news that he led David Zaffiro to the Lord. Here's the story: "In my last year of high school, I was in the concert band. I'd bring my guitar to school and we'd jam out in the band room. Dave and his friend, Maverick Gibson, would come in. We'd pass the guitar around and play. I used to witness to him everyday. I graduated and went on my merry way, and in 1979 I bumped into Dave and Maverick again in this guitar shop. He'd made a decision, but had backslid. I encouraged him to find a pastor and get involved. Well, he moved to Seattle and got involved with Calvary Chapel. One day I was in this guitar store five years later and David taps me on the shoulder. A couple years later, I met him at the Metal Mardis Gras. You never can tell what's gonna happen to those you witness to. We should be quick to witness."

Amen. HM

JEFF SCHEETZ
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Whether you are a beginner or an advanced player, **"Building a Practice Program"** can help you organize your material and show you how to get the most out of your practice time. Perfect for players who are in a rut, or for those who've decided to take their playing seriously but are not sure where to start.

Jeff takes you step-by-step through a series of right and left hand developmental exercises, as well as discussing right and left hand technique, soloing, and improv concepts. He also shows you how to assemble your practice program in order to maximize your learning experience.

Jeff demonstrates his playing abilities by performing two songs from his LP **"Woodpecker Stomp".**

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Pastor Bob's Column

(Photo by Sandra Mayurnik)

Did you know that a drunk driving conviction will have a serious impact on your pocketbook--as well as your life? Besides the fines and legal fees, your insurance premium will go up. If you live in Baltimore, it will jump from $783 to $2,813. In Denver, from $675 to $2,517. In San Diego, from $557 to $1,984. In Seattle, from $503 to $1,804. And in Tampa, from $681 to $2,163! Serious damage to the finances, huh? No one usually thinks about the consequences when they start drinking. Besides, everyone else seems to be getting away with it!

Do you realize how much of the same mentality we have when it comes to our spiritual lives? If you're a Christian, you know that Jesus saved you because of his death on the cross. The world system didn't save you. Your sinful nature didn't save you. The Bible says, "You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. Surely you heard of Him and were taught in Him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires, to be made new in the attitude of your minds, and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness." (Ephesians 4:20-24)

"Okay, okay Pastor Bob. I get your point. I've heard a lot of sermons about sin. Could you kinda hurry this along. I'd like to read the record reviews and find out when Vengeance Rising is starting their tour!"

We pride ourselves on knowing a lot about the bands. We're excited to be "on the edge" of Christian music. But are you "on the edge" spiritually? Is the music feeding your flesh or your spirit? You say, "How do I know if it's feeding me spiritually?" Simple. Is it convicting you of the sin in your life and drawing you closer to God?

How much does sin cost? It's very expensive when you view it in light of eternity! But it will also cost you on a daily basis! I know you enjoy the music--but when was the last time you picked up the Bible? Or spent some time alone with God in prayer? God wants your heart--not just your enthusiasm. He wants your life--not just your music.

Take just a minute right now. Put the magazine down. And while you're at it, turn the stereo off, too! Tell God that you want your relationship with Him to be more important than your music. Talk to Him about the sin in your life. Ask Him to forgive you, and to help you live a holy life. Let Him know that you love Him. Ask Him to help you establish a deeper relationship with Him. Then, the next time you crank up your Christian music, listen to the words of the songs and plug them into your heart--not just your mind. You'll feel the conviction of sin and the need for some personal "quiet" time with God. Wouldn't it be great if you spent even half as much time with God as you do with your music? HM

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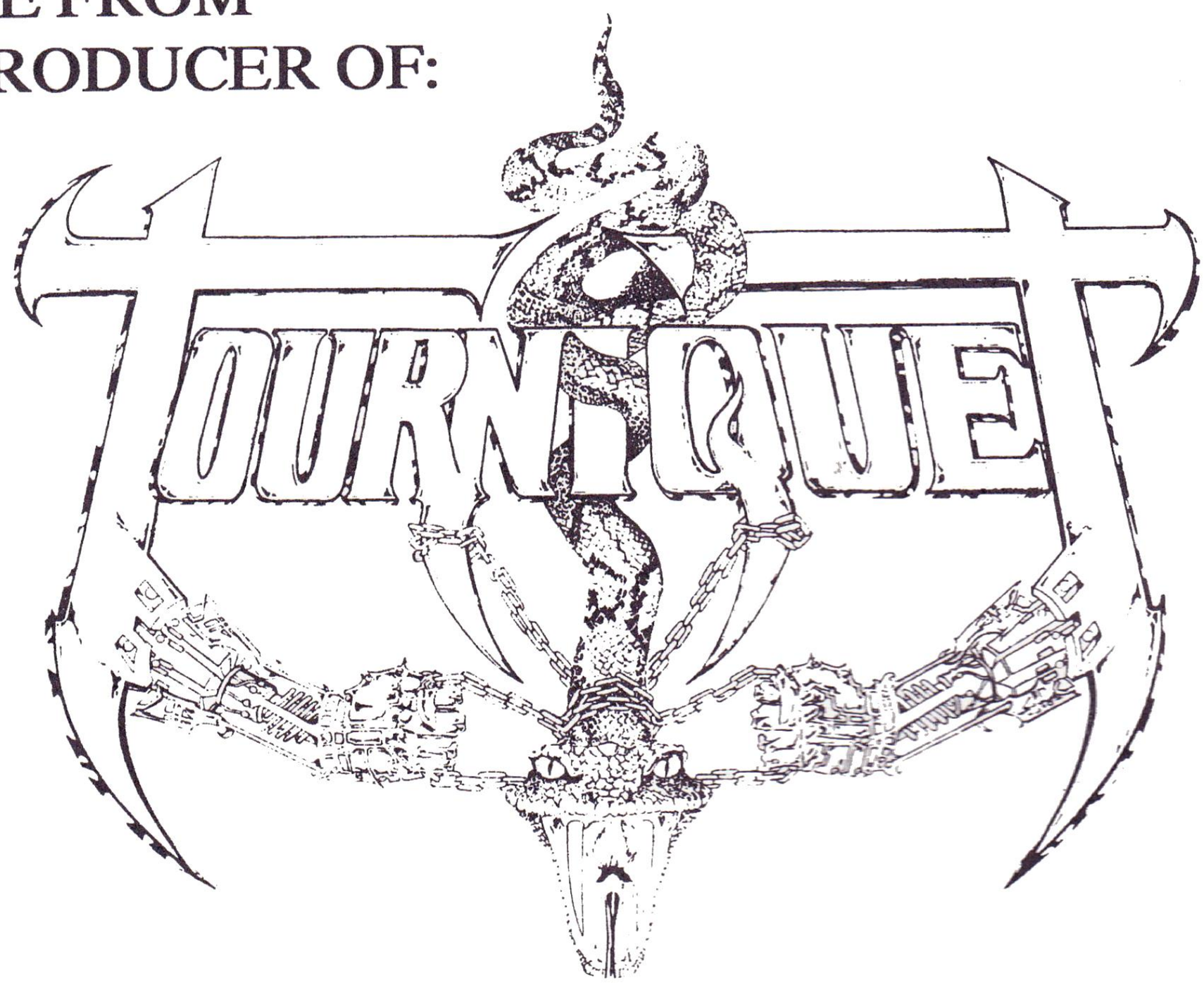

Hello Boyz:

Do you understand and are you in agreement with what Vengeance is about? If so, we hope that you will make these resources a priority in your preparation of that to which you have been called. Warfare.

The band greatly appreciates what many of you are doing with the album, and now, it is time for you to take a step further in the process which we have begun. This is reality folks. No jokes here. Your uniting into this army requires heavy action. We want you to be prepared.

The weapons we are making available to you are to be utilized. Obtain them, study them, and then put them to use. I will personally make myself available to you as much as is possible to assist you in this process.

It is our desire that you make this effort a place of priority in your life. This is the reason we exist. The tapes we are making available to you are on a wide range of subjects that I'm sure you will find radical. They are from the heart and out of the Word. We hope that you will choose to invest in these tapes. I know that if you are into what we are about, they will blow your mind. I hope to hear from you soon.

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Ordering is simple, $3.00 per tape or four tapes for ten. Please enclose $2.00 for 3rd class postage, or $3 for 1st class. Thank you very much. It really helps expand what we are doing. Please make all Checks or Money Orders payable to:

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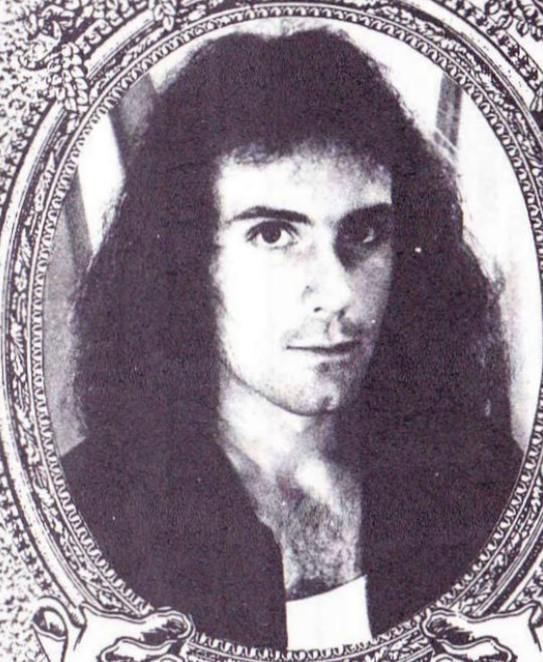

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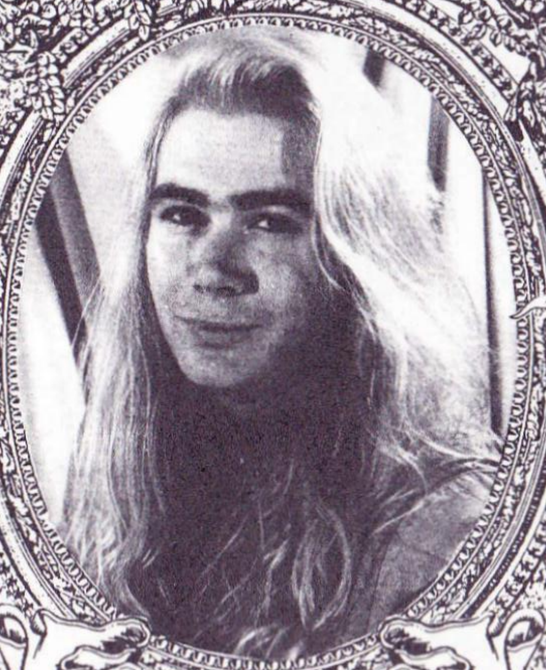

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LICKS & TRICKS

By Jeff Scheetz

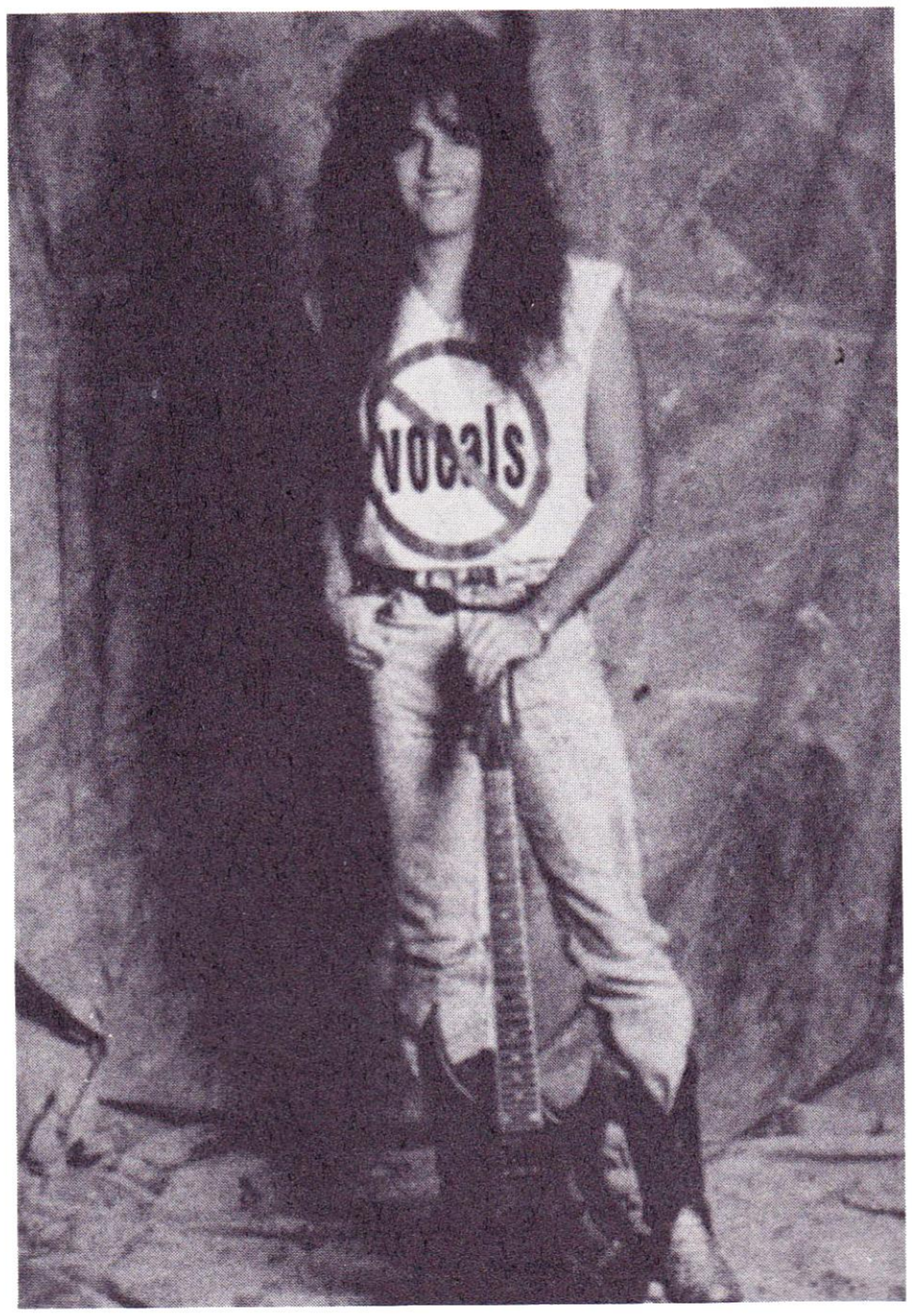
Greetings Shreddudes!

This month I've put pen to paper in order to write out one of the exercises that's found in my instructional video--"Building A Practice Program." I feel this is a great exercise for developing left-hand dexterity while whipping that right-hand alternate picking into shape.

Play the exercise as shown and continue by moving up the neck one fret at a time, alternating between the two patterns. When you get to your highest fret, proceed by going back down the neck playing the patterns backwards. Be sure and use consistent alternate picking (ie. down, up, down, up, etc.), for this is imperative for gaining a prestigious right-hand attack. You can eventually use sweep picking for maximum left-hand speed and right-hand economy of motion, but start with the alternate picking.

As with any exercise, the most important element is your imagination. Once you are comfortable with the way I have it written out--EXPERIMENT! You know, play it on different strings, on different places on the neck, with different finger combinations, standing on your head and playing with your toes! Oh well, you get the picture. Since there are only four strings involved, this exercise also works well for bassists. So show this to your 4-string buddies! See ya next time!!!

Those interested in Jeff's work will be glad to know that he's got a band together and will be playing a couple of shows in October and then doing some dates with Tony MacAlpine. The band is available for other dates if anyone is interested. (Call the number on the "Woodpecker..." ad) Jeff also was featured at the L.A. Guitar Show in September. For those who haven't got his solo album yet...what are you waiting for?



Trading Post classified ads are $5. Ads should be short, about 50 words or less (see the CMU ad below for reference). Radio shows must send paid ads on station letterhead. You will notice several regular classifieds missing from this issue. They were deleted because of space; but will be back for good next issue.

* **Take A Stand:** $6 for 6 monthly issues. Send long SASE for 1st free issue: PO Box 10741, Scottsdale AZ 85271.

* **Notebored:** $5 for 6 issues. $1 for current issue. (Checks or MO only) Box 202, RD 1, Atglen PA 19310.

* **The Burning Bush:** $5 for 6 issues ($9 Overseas) c/o Justin J. Julian, 213 S. Jeffreys, Pleasant Hl, MO 64080.

* **The Cutting Edge:** $9 for 12 issues (Overseas send $20). Dan Kennedy, 8303 Hilton Way, Orlando FL 32810.

* **White Throne:** Current issue: $3, to White Throne, PO Box 20577, Dept. H, Castro Valley CA 94546.

* **Christian Musicians United!** For more info, and a free copy of CMU Magazine, write: CMU, 91-16 86th St, Woodhaven NY 11421; or call (718) 296-5536 9-5 M-F.

* **White Noise** Subscriptions are $3. Write: PO Box 1564, Point Roberts WA 98281-1564.

* **Gospel Metal** - For a sample issue, send $3 to: Keith Day, 3331 E. Romelle, Orange CA 92669.

* **Cross** Rhythms - Europe's leading music mag. Piles of metal, indie. Send 3 British Pounds in International Money Order for fat, 76-page issue, or go crazy and spend 32 British Pounds for a 12-issue subscription to: Cross Rhythms, 164 High Street, Birmingham, B12 0LD, England.

* **HUNGARIAN** UNDERGROUND MAGAZINE - Third issue will be 16 pages. Send $9 for 6-issues or $1.50 each. Write: PO Box 11516, 1001GM, Amsterdam, Holland.

* **The Obligator** $1 for a trial issue or $5 for five-issue subscription. Foreign and Canadian orders please write for rates. Send to: Mark Hodges, PO Box 915, Muskegon MI 49443-0915.

* **ACM JOURNAL:** A pretty exhaustive listing of Christian rock music with addresses. Write: PO Box 1273, Sumner WA 98390.

* **ESTABLISHED PROGRESSIVE ROCK BAND** seeks highly motivated, skilled guitarist. Call (512) 272-4677 Austin, Texas. Leave message. Serious Inquiries only.

* **ROCK & METAL ARTISTS:** You can be placed on Record, Radio and Stage in the College/Alternative market. Call (615) 776-5188.

* **ROCK TOWER NEWSLETTER** - Metal, rock, pop music reviews, Bible studies, and more. Sample copy $2.50, or write for details. Follow The Light Ministries, PO Box 113, Absecon NJ 08201.

* **PURE ROCK** - New show on college station. Need much prayer, many tapes, mags, demos, singles, CD's, anything useful. Serves Utica/Rome--Upstate NY. Sam Werberg, Box 113A, Hamilton College, Clinton NY 13323-1297. Phone (315) 859-1516.

* **HOLLYWOOD** GLAM BAND, JET BLACK, seeks young bleach-blonde or jet black haired Glam guitarist. Must have the look! We have financial backing, 24 hour rehearsal, Major connections, label interest, and tunes. Influences: Kiss, Motley Crue, Poison, LA Guns. Send recent photo and tape to: Jet Black c/o Shawn Kelly, 7000 Hawthorn Apt 334, Hollywood CA 90028. Phone (213) 467-2647.

* **LEAD/RHYTHM GUITARIST & BACKING VOCALIST SONGWRITER** seeks to join or form 4-piece Heavy Metal or Hard Rock band. Phone (213) 672-4544. Call or write: Brady Wymond, 11032 Truro Ave, Lennox CA 90304.

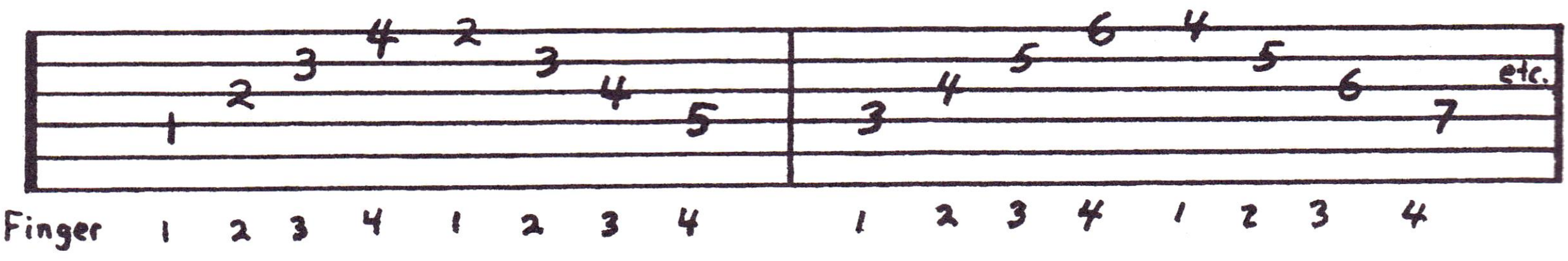
* **CHRISTIAN HEAVY METAL,** HARD ROCK, ALTERNATIVE MUSIC BANDS: Send your demos for free airplay in West Los Angeles/San Fernando Valley area. Please include bio if possible. Send to: Al Negron/Spiritual Rock, 5287 Sunset Blvd, Hollywood CA 90027.

* **WANTED:** DUAL EDGE "Knock 'Em Alive" and SAINT "Warriors Of The Son" on cassette; all releases by Joshua on CD; and every demo cassette of signed Heavy Metal Christian bands, such as Bride, Whitecross, The Crucified, Deliverance, Barren Cross, X-Sinner, etc. If you can help in any way, please write to: Michael Govostis, 5744 West Circle Drive, Oaklawn IL 60453.

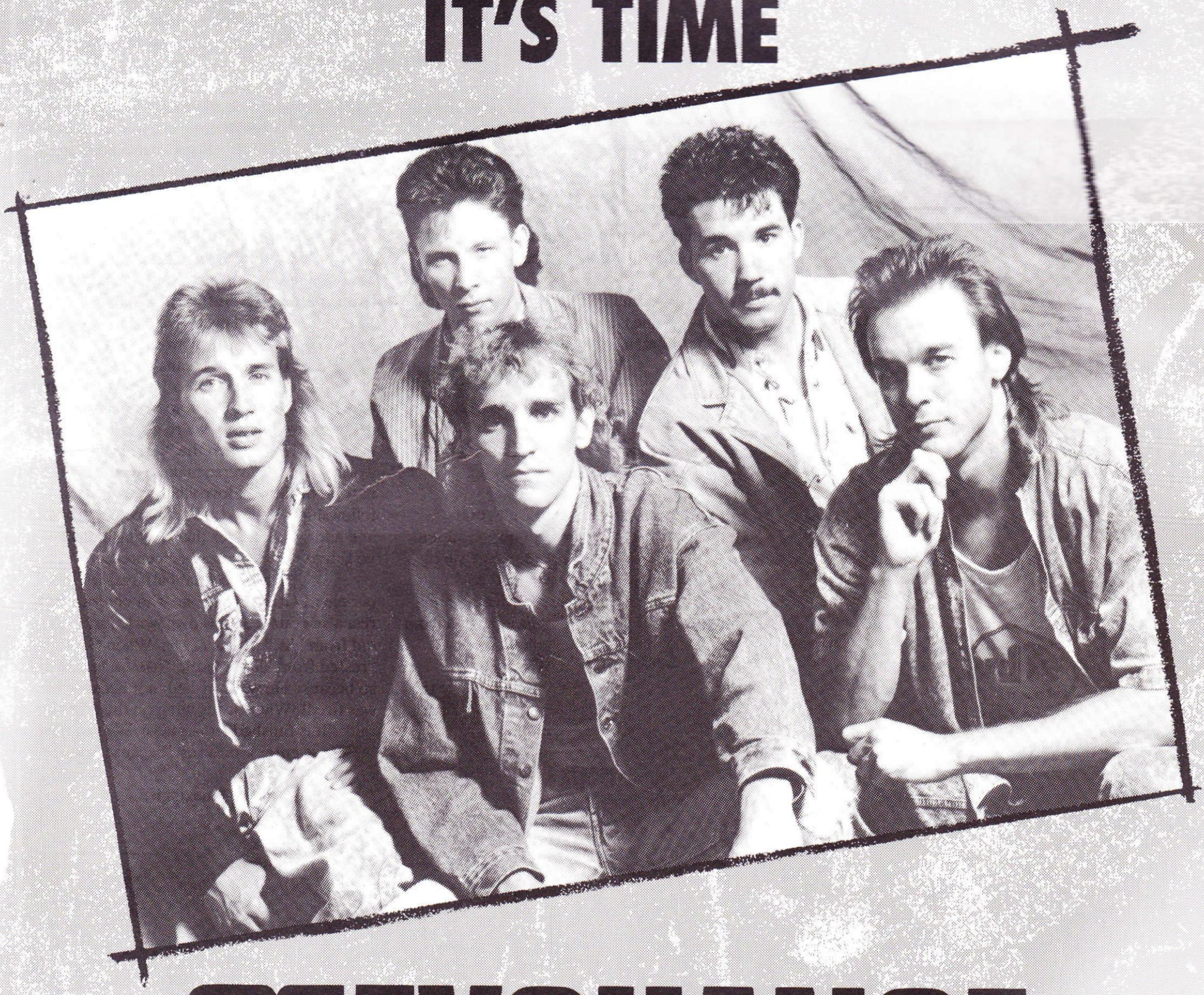
* **qodesh** (pronounced Ko-desh) - Is looking for a serious lead vocalist with a sincere heart to serve God, a powerful voice and a desire to sing progressive/Metal, original music. Must be willing to relocate. Send demo, picture, and short bio to: Gerard Medicis, 1700 Schenk Rd, Evansville IN 47720, or call (812) 867-2945.

* **FOR SALE: STRYPER COLLECTION,** including LP's, 45's, test pressings, promotional and foreign items, colored vinyl, picture discs, magazine clippings, T-shirts, photos, and more. Being sold as a set only to the highest bidder. If you would like to receive a list of everything, please send a SASE to: Michael Govostis, 5744 W Circle Drive, Oaklawn IL 60453.

* **TEMPERED STEEL** is a weekly 2-hour Christian metal show featuring ALL THRASH & HARDCORE. If you are interested in receiving a copy of the show each week AT NO CHARGE, write or call: Tempered Steel c/o Dale Early, PO Box 1212, Ft. Myers FL 33902/(813) 275-3455.



IF YOU HAVEN'T HEARD... IT'S TIME



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Why are you working? Are you working to earn God's favor? Or are you working because you have God's favor? If you're trying to earn God's favor, give it up. No one can earn God's favor by works, because we're human. Human beings have limits and we all have this ugly thing called a "sinful nature."

If we think we're doing well, it's just because we're measuring ourselves against some other human. When we measure ourselves against God's standards, we fall miserably short of His glory. God's standard is called "The Law." He gave mankind this law to show him how sinful he is. "No one will be declared righteous in His sight by observing the law; rather through the law we become conscious of sin." (Romans 3:20)

If trying my hardest isn't good enough, what on earth can be done? God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to earth to be a "sin offering." (Romans 8:3) Jesus received the judgment we deserve for our sin--death. He rose from the dead and offers us a pardon from sin's judgment. This pardon allows us to escape the penalty we deserve, as well as reconciling us with God. Now we can have the love, acceptance, and forgiveness that we all want--and we don't even have to work for it.

This concept of not having to work for God's acceptance is sometimes a hard thing for us to grasp. It seems part of human nature to want to earn what is given to us. We may accept God's gift of salvation, but then we proceed to try and earn that gift; or we work real hard not to lose it. Paul addressed this issue in his letter to the Galatians: "Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?" (Galatians 3:3) We must understand that God's favor towards us is not based upon what we do. It is based upon what Jesus did. God's standard of the Law has been met in Jesus.

Most of us are stubborn on this point, and will seek an answer to the disciples' question--"What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" Jesus answered them by saying, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him Whom He has sent." (John 6:29) This is the only work that's required of us by God. The best part about it, is that God equips us to do even this task. "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God..." (Ephesians 2:8,9) God even gives us the faith and grace required to do our work!

To believe means to trust in, rely on, and cling to. If we cling to Jesus, we're going to love Him--because He is so wonderful. In our response to that love, we're going to do things for Him. That's when the "...faith without works is dead..." verse makes sense. Works is a natural outflow of love when you're in fellowship with God. Works become worship and adoration, rather than slaving and striving; because God's rest has been entered.

"There is a Sabbath rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from His." (Hebrews 4:9,10) When God "rested from all His work," (Genesis 2:2) He did so because He was finished; not because He was tired! When Jesus hung on the cross he said, "It is finished." (John 19:30) We can now therefore enter God's rest, because Jesus finished it for us.

Grace is amazing!

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